

Rafsanjani to Waldheim: We are honoured

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani told his Austrian counterpart Kurt Waldheim Monday he should be proud of a ban denying him entry to the United States, Tehran radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, reported that in his first round of talks with the Austrian president since he arrived in Tehran Sunday, Rafsanjani said that "for us, your presence is a source of honour." He added that was "especially since your person is the source of spite and animosity for the Zionists and America, to the point that your entrance to America has been banned." Waldheim was put on a U.S. watch list of undesirable aliens in 1987 on suspicion that he was implicated in World War II atrocities. Referring to the ban, Rafsanjani said that "in our opinion, the reason for these hostilities is that during your tenure as head of the United Nations, you were not prepared to take any action to the benefit of the Zionists and against the deprived people of Palestine." Waldheim's visit to Tehran is the first by a western head of state since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

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Iraqi pilgrims to leave for Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said on Monday that Saudi Arabia, a Gulf war enemy, had agreed to let Iraqi pilgrims travel by road, Iraqi news agency said, quoting an official of the ministry of religious affairs. A private company has been set up to provide transport and other services. The report gave no indication how many Iraqis would make the haj.

Greenpeace: Ban burning of toxic waste

BRUSSELS (R) — Greenpeace criticised governments and industry worldwide on Monday, saying they ignored the dangers of burning toxic waste and the misery it could wreak on people's health and livelihoods. The environmental action group told a news conference that industry hid the risks of burning hazardous waste. It called for a global moratorium on all new waste incinerators and the phasing-out of existing ones. Earlier a Greenpeace team swarmed onto a major construction site opposite the European Community's famous X-shaped Berylamont building and climbed a 45-metre crane, draping it with huge banners. Greenpeace members showed reporters a study challenging the belief that dangerous effluents could be burned safely and said incinerators produced substances which threatened the environment. "Toxic ash emitted can be more dangerous than what went in and incinerators cannot be continually monitored," Greenpeace member Lisa Fink said.

Talabani wants international guarantees
ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — The Kurds of Iraq will insist on international guarantees in any agreement with the central Baghdad government, a Kurdish leader said Monday. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said the safety of Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds depend on the country's internal security, the presence of about 15,000 guerrillas under his command in northern Iraq, democracy and international guarantees for the Kurds. "International guarantees are of utmost importance," Talabani said without specifying what they might consist of. As to the U.S. military forces in northern Iraq, he said, "they should leave" after the Kurds reached an agreement with the Iraqi government and "after the threat of genocide ceases."

Protesters interrupt U.S. Gulf commanders
NEW YORK (R) — Screaming protesters repeatedly interrupted American Gulf war leaders on Sunday as they spoke during a memorial service for the U.S. war dead. Their shouts echoing throughout the cavernous Cathedral of St. John the Divine, protesters interrupted Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Gulf war commanders General Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf eight times during the service. A man and a woman repeatedly screamed "murderer, murderer" as Cheney as he tried to speak. "There are murderers in this cathedral," another man shouted as Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces in the Gulf, read a passage from Virgil's "Aeneid." "Your yellow ribbon is covered with blood," the man yelled as guards moved to throw him out.

'Hundreds killed in Afghan raids'
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Massive bombing raids by Afghan warplanes have killed scores of innocent people in civilian areas in western Herat province, a Muslim guerrilla leader claimed Monday. "The Afghan government used air force and long-range artillery, as being extensively used. At least 40,000 civilians have fled Herat and moved to Iran," Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Jamiat-E-Islami, or party of Islam, told reporters.

Prince Hassan: Mideast is testing ground for credible world order

ISTANBUL (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday laid stress to the need for all members of the world community to work together towards peace and the insurance of equitable socio-economic well-being for all people.

"The Middle East region is very obviously both an international catalyst and a testing ground," said the Crown Prince in an address delivered on his behalf to the meeting of a Social-ist International Middle East committee in Istanbul.

"Our fates — North and South — are inexorably linked in this infinite interdependent world and it has rightly been said that the primary focus of security is people and not states nor the elite, the affluent or the more powerful," Prince Hassan said.

In the address, presented by the Prince's economic advisor, Dr. Ahmad Mango, he stressed that fact that for a better future, socio-political progress must be paralleled by significant progress

in sustainable economic development and security. "We must develop an alternative to the political economy of despair that the Middle East's conflict have left us with — towards a political economy of peace and progress," the Crown Prince continued.

Referring to the situation in the Middle East, the Prince said that the source of unrest in the region at the moment was the refusal of certain Israeli politicians to accept the principle of land for peace. At any rate, the Gulf war has proved that territorial depth no longer ensured safety, he said. By taking such factors into consideration and while formulating their policies for this region, the superpowers could facilitate initial political negotiations and be even more instrumental in helping to create a positive regional security environment in this region, the Prince said.

Prince Hassan noted that arms control is at the heart of the new strategic security environment.

Future prospects for preserving peace and reducing the dangers of war, he said, rest equally on political, military and economic stability.

Given the new strategic environment of the Middle East, from now on we need regional arms controls and confidence and security-building measures to provide sufficient strategic depth for both the Arab countries and Israel — distinguishing the legitimate needs of every state to protect itself, the Prince noted.

Our future, he said, should be based on safeguarding the fundamental principles of international law. Equal attention, he said, must be given to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction and their means of delivery.

Prince Hassan referred to the Helsinki agreement for security in Europe and said that the Helsinki process can be extended to the Middle East based on energy policy, arms control and debt reduction.

Moussa in Damascus; Levy leaves for Washington

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa flew to Damascus on Monday for talks with Syrian leaders on the stalled Middle East peace process and security arrangements in the post-war Gulf, officials said.

Moussa, visiting Damascus for the first time since being appointed two weeks ago, told reporters on arrival his visit was aimed at maintaining coordination between the two Arab allies.

"Our talks will deal with a big number of issues related to the situation in the region and the peace process. We are keen to continue coordination on the highest level between Cairo and

Damascus," Moussa said. Officials said the Egyptian minister would start talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Shara later on Monday.

Moussa who attended last week's talks between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Hafez Al Assad in Cairo was expected to meet the Syrian leader during his visit.

Assad and Mubarak agreed during their talks on the need for the convening of a Middle East peace conference on the basis of U.N. resolutions and under the auspices of the world body.

The United States which has been trying since the end of the Gulf war to convene such a conference supports a U.N. role in any peace talks but Israel opposes this.

The Israeli rejection was contained in a letter from headline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to U.S. President George Bush who offered compromise proposals to keep his peace efforts alive.

Shamir said on Sunday Israel would accept Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation in peace talks but insisted on the power of veto.

U.S. officials had said the question of Palestinian representation had been worked out, but two points on format had not been

(Continued on page 4)

U.N. envoy urges aid for Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — United Nations envoy Bettino Craxi wound up a 24-hour visit to Beirut Monday, saying consolidation of the current peace process would facilitate the reconstruction of Lebanon.

"Political stability and the evolution of peace will accelerate development in the region," the former Italian prime minister told reporters at Beirut airport. Craxi flew in Sunday and held talks Monday with senior government leaders to assess Lebanon's reconstruction requirements after 16 years of civil war.

"The European Community, Arab and western countries have a responsibility towards Lebanon at this crucial phase," Craxi said in French. "I hope they will forward to help as soon as possible."

Craxi met with President Elias

Hrawi, parliament speaker Hussein Hussein, Prime Minister Omar Karami and Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz.

Sources at the presidential palace said he discussed plans by U.N. agencies and the European Community to contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon's shattered infrastructure.

Western diplomatic sources said U.N. experts estimate Lebanon would need \$5 billion to bring rebuilding devastated areas along the dismantled green line that had split Beirut into Muslim and Christian sectors since 1975.

U.N. agencies and the EC would extend \$2.5 billion of soft loans to rebuild highways, telephone and telecommunication services, power plants and several industries, the sources said.

Meanwhile, a British govern-

ment minister said on Monday he saw grounds for "careful optimism" over the release of western hostages in Lebanon but also cautioned against hopes of their early freedom.

Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg, the most senior British official to visit Beirut in six years, said the governments of Iran, Syria and Lebanon itself all recognised the importance of securing the release of the 12 hostages.

On the second day of his visit Hogg met Summi Mann, 73-year-old wife of British hostage Jack Mann.

"There are grounds for careful optimism," he told reporters afterwards. He added: "There is no reason to think that we are going to see an early release and I don't want to give that impression."



His Majesty King Hussein Monday leads celebrations for Army Day and Great Arab Revolt anniversary (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordan celebrates Army Day, Great Arab Revolt anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day represents the most important national anniversary for Jordan as it is a dear anniversary for all Arabs and commemorates the creation of the Armed Forces which inherited the revolt's mission of providing protection to the Arab World.

Speaking to reporters following a ceremony held at the Martyrs Monument at the outskirts of Amman to commemorate the anniversary, King Hussein said that it is indeed a dear anniversary for all of us, and we have reason to raise our heads high in pride of the Arab army which we are ready to uphold and protect with our souls.

In reply to a question about the democratisation process now that the National Charter has been endorsed, the King stressed that the Kingdom will remain faithful to the Arab Nation, and will set a good example because this country's march aims at achieving the noblest goals.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, King Hussein attended the ceremony organised by the Armed Forces at the Martyrs Monument. A 21-gun salute greeted the King. The King then toured parts of the interior sections of the monument which display the story of the Great Arab Revolt and the evolution of the Armed Forces.

King Hussein later watered the olive tree in the backyard and

signed the visitors register.

Earlier, the King presented medals to a number of officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security and Civil Defence, and met well wishers at Al Hussein Youth City. These included the Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, cabinet members, parliament deputies, heads of tribal units, as well as the commander of the Palestine Army in Jordan and heads of diplomatic missions and their military attaches.

Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb hosted a lunch at Al Hussein Youth City in honour of King Hussein.

Attending were their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Ali Ibn Al Hussein, the prime minister and senior officials.

Iraq appeals for grace period on reparations

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Iraqi government, arguing that the country's economy is in a shambles, pleaded Monday with the United Nations for a two-to-five-year grace period from paying war reparations.

Iraq's earlier appeal for a five-year moratorium on compensation payments has been rejected by the United States, Britain and other members of the U.N. Security Council.

The latest appeal also was expected to be rejected. "What about a moratorium on payments to victims of Iraq's aggression, like the Kuwaitis and foreign nationals who suffered?" asked one U.S. diplomat.

But Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari argued that financial data cited by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar indicating Iraq's ability to pay were overly optimistic

2 Jordanians convicted by Kuwait court

KUWAIT (R) — A 55-year-old Jordanian kissed the hands of his guards in a vain plea for a final embrace with relatives after being jailed for 15 years by Kuwait's martial law court on Monday.

"I'm innocent," sobbed Hosni Mohammad Hassan after being convicted of possessing firearms. His mother, wife and eldest son also wept as he was led away from court room six.

Hassan cried uncontrollably when the sentence was passed by a five-man court. He insisted he knew nothing about the arms found in his car.

He had pleaded not guilty, like all of the more than 100 defendants who have appeared during three weeks of trials on charges stemming from the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

An Iraqi woman, Fatima Oza, wept bitterly when she was sentenced to five years' hard labour followed by deportation for cooperating with the Iraqis. She looked stunned when the sentence was read out.

Another Jordanian, Issa Sajed, was sentenced to two years' hard labour. He was found in possession of arms.

Two other Jordanians were ac-

quitted of collaborating with the Iraqis.

A total of 21 defendants appeared — nine Iraqis, four Kuwaitis, six Jordanians and two stateless Arabs or bedouins. A total of 16 cases were adjourned.

An earlier court session was adjourned when the presiding judge sought confirmation that 18 people charged with collaboration were members of the Iraqi popular army, a charge which has brought the only death sentence.

All the accused pleaded not guilty to joining the auxiliary force to Iraq's regular army. The accused were 14 Jordanians, three Iraqi residents of Kuwait and one bedouin.

The judge's action suggested that the Iraqis left behind records of people who joined the popular army after the conquest of the emirate last August 2.

Membership of the militia is emerging as a main charge in the trials of more than 220 people suspected of collaborating with the Iraqis, informing on the Kuwaiti resistance, or taking up arms on Baghdad's behalf.

Kuwaiti residents say the mili-

Algerian military holds 34 Muslim militants

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Political violence, including sabotage, has persisted despite calls by Islamic fundamentalist leaders for an end to protests that resulted in a state of siege, authorities said Monday.

Security officials said at least 34 people had been arrested since Saturday in various incidents of political unrest, including two assaults by a crowd of 600 people on an Algiers police station where two Islamic militants were jailed.

The defence ministry said an unspecified number of foreigners were among those arrested and reported that arms caches had been seized in several cities. There were unconfirmed reports that suspects from France, Tunisia and Sudan were among those in custody for promoting a takeover by Islamic radicals.

Abelkader Boukhemoune, a leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, contended that hundreds of people had been arrested.

The official Algerian Press Service reported that the Salvation Front's president, Sheikh Abassi Madani, was turned back by police when he tried to enter a gas complex in central Algeria to negotiate the reinstatement of fired workers. The agency said officers at one point fired shots at Madani's car, but no one was

(Continued on page 5)

Libya: Britain escalates hostile campaign

NICOSIA (R) — Libya accused Britain on Monday of escalating a hostile campaign against it and distorting remarks made by Libyan officials.

The official news agency JANA said certain British officials and information media had attributed incorrect statements to Libyan officials.

"The distortion of these statements were meant to serve tendentious aims," JANA, received in Cyprus, said.

British news reports have said Libya wants to restore diplomatic ties with Britain, broken in 1984 after a policeman was killed by a shot fired from the Libyan embassy in London.

But the British government insists that Libya should renounce terrorism and withdraw backing for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) before there can be any suggestion of a renewal of links.

Political sources quoted by Britain's national news agency, the Press Association, had said Libya was ready to offer information on alleged shipments of arms and explosives to the (IRA), if Britain accepted to restore diplomatic relations.

Conservative MP Teddy Taylor returned from a visit to Libya last week with a Libyan donation to a British police charity, which he said showed Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's regret for the killing of the policeman.

The Observer newspaper on Sunday quoted Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, Ali Treiki, as saying his country had now broken all links with the IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

U.S. stages 'mother of parades'

By Toby Williams
Special to the Jordan Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It has been dubbed the "mother of all parades." The United States National Victory Celebrations honouring soldiers who took part in "Operation Desert Storm" to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's occupation made Washington's streets and skies come to life over the weekend with a display, before thousands of people, of the military equipment used in the war against Iraq.

The politicians and generals had more than just a military "victory" against Iraq to celebrate. The parade, resembling the Soviet military parades during the heights of the Cold War, had just as much to do with honouring the U.S. soldiers who served in the Gulf as it did with "kicking the Viet-

nam syndrome" and illustrating to all nations, unequivocally, that the U.S. is the reigning and sole world superpower. Specifically, it was a tribute to air power and to the value of stealth — two vital elements which gave the U.S. superiority in the skies and enabled Washington and its allies to massively defeat Iraq and reverse the occupation of Kuwait. For anti-war activists, however, the weekend parade was an offensive "fascist military spectacle" taking place, unnecessarily, they say, at the expense of the U.S. tax-payers and with no sensitivity to the civilian lives lost by the "not-so-smart" bombs that fell on Iraq during the 100-day long war.

The Washington Post called it a "love affair" between "people and war machines." It said that approximately

800,000 people were gathered in Washington over the weekend to "test drive" America's war machines, to "feel" part of a winning team, to see how America's high-tech war machinery works and to meet "the country's newest heroes." A 15-year-old boy said he wanted to get a taste of the hands-on experience of war machinery. "You've got to see how we won the war and what we won it with," said another young American.

Although polls taken recently show a drop in the percentage of Americans who, in hind sight, think the war against Iraq was worth it, the parade was clearly a very popular event enjoyed by a public which was supportive of the Gulf war.

But at a cost of \$12 million, Washington's largest military

parade since World War II has angered even some of those who had supported military action to evict Iraq out of Kuwait. The parade has sparked a debate in the country as to the value of such celebrations over a war in which real combat took place at a time when there is little or no public mention of the 100,000 to 200,000 casualties fallen in Iraq as a result of the war.

These Americans who consider themselves no less patriotic than those wearing yellow ribbons and waving American flags are more concerned with

tackling what they believe are problems of racism and poverty at home and would have preferred to see the money spent on education and health services in the U.S.

The counter demonstration set up by anti-war activists attracted a relatively small group of 200 protesters who were booed when they expressed themselves in opposition to a very popular event. The protesters objected, among other things, to the display of the military hardware which killed thousands of Iraqis during the war, originally launched to rid Kuwait of an illegal occupation. The protesters said the parade disregarded the Iraqi civilian lives which were lost to the very weaponry that was being nationalistically displayed in Washington.

Ana Crawford, representing an anti-war organisation called

"Waging Peace," said the parade and the display of weaponry obscured the reality that the equipment being displayed has killed human beings. "Our children are playing on weapons that kill other children," she protested with the aim of reminding fellow Americans of the "evil reality of militarism."

Colman McCarthy, a syndicated columnist and a peace activist at the Centre for Teaching Peace, called the parade "a celebration of megadeath."

Teh Washington Post described the anti-war activists as a handful of protestors swimming against the tide of celebrations. And that is what they were. When police managed to stop two female protesters dressed in black who had

(Continued on page 5)

IMPORTANT INVENTION
PAGE 5



Insecurity still reigns in southern Ethiopia region

By Rowena Whelan
Reuters

SODO, Ethiopia — Irish Nun Helen Gormally decided it was time to buy a machinegun to defend her mission school when looting broke out in this southern Ethiopian town as the old Marxist regime crumbled.

"There was a lot of shooting at night. We already had armed guards, but on the Thursday we bought a machinegun," Sister Helena said, referring to the third day after the capital Addis Ababa fell to rebel forces on May 28.

She said mission guards scared away would-be looters, who advanced on the mission, by firing the machinegun over their heads.

But the victory of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) forces has done little to lessen the concern of people in the north Omo area where insecurity has become a permanent feature of life.

Residents and local aid workers say shooting can still be heard at night as EPRDF troops flood into the area, tightening their grip on the remote, poverty-stricken region.

"We don't know what will happen. We are just living from day to day," Sister Helena said.

She said there was real hatred

emerging after 17 years of oppression under the Marxist rule of deposed Ethiopian Leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Anarchy broke out in Sodo, 400 kilometres south of Addis Ababa, after the May 28 takeover. Former government soldiers sold their Soviet-made weapons to anybody who would buy them as they fled from the advancing victorious forces.

EPRDF troops occupied Sodo four days after taking power. An anti-aircraft artillery truck abandoned by government soldiers still points its guns towards Sister Helena's school. But EPRDF troops have now disarmed it.

The commander of the EPRDF troops told the first journalists to reach Sodo that his forces met no resistance when they entered the town.

"The soldiers had already escaped when we arrived," said commander Tekle Weldeabazgi. He said he had 120 fighters stationed in Sodo and they were cooperating with local self-defence groups set up by village leaders in the region.

"We want to cooperate with the local people... but we will be staying here," he said.

Young scruffily-dressed EPRDF fighters from the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia, who have set up their headquarters in Sodo's police station, lounged in the sunshine.

Missionaries said trouble began almost immediately after Mengistu fled to Zimbabwe on May 22. Demoralised soldiers began re-treating, many of them trying to reach their home areas.

"Law and order began to break down the minute Mengistu left," said Sister Carmel, who runs a charity school for blind children at Shashemane, 300 kilometres down the main road south from Addis Ababa.

"The soldiers were hungry, and they wanted money to get to their homes."

The grain stores of the Irish-based charity, Concern, were razed and 800 tonnes of emergency relief supplies looted.

"That would have been enough to feed nearly 100,000 people on half-rations for a month," said Tom Lavin, Concern's field director.

More than 300,000 peasants face starvation in north Omo, aid officials say. They feared it would be hard to re-start relief operations with grain stores destroyed.

Kuwaitis indifferent

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — The first death sentence in the collaboration trials left Kuwaitis indifferent, most too involved in restocking their houses to even follow the cases.

And the acting prosecutor general said more such sentences would follow as he asked for the maximum penalty for virtually all the approximately 300 defendants scheduled to appear.

"A death sentence? There wasn't one," said Masad Ahmed, a 45-year-old government employee picking over new tires and batteries in an outdoor car market. "There was? Well if people were really collaborating and hurting Kuwait, they should hang."

The martial law court on Saturday condemned a 33-year-old stateless man who never got a chance to speak to his court-appointed lawyer.

Mankhi al Shimmiri, a radar technician in the Kuwaiti air force, was accused of joining Iraq's popular army and providing information to the enemy that hurt the independence of Kuwait.

There is no appeal under martial law rules. But Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also martial law governor, must approve all sentences in consultation with three judges from the court of appeals.

The three said Sunday there was no set time frame for their review, but they expected to expedite all collaboration cases.

Martial law, first implemented at the Feb. 26 li-

beration for three months, has been extended a month.

Al Shimmiri has the right to submit a petition to the crown prince to commute or stay the penalty.

"I hope Sheikh Saad, by his mercy, will save his life," defence attorney Abdul Latif Al Seif said. He said he had been unable to go over Al Shimmiri's case with him since he was appointed counsel on May 25 because he was busy with dozens of other cases and with getting his ransacked office in order.

The acting prosecutor-general, Hamid Al Othman, pointed out that all the more than 200 defendants who have appeared in court so far have faced the death penalty, the maximum for collaboration.

"We've asked for the death penalty in each case. In this case it was taken," he said.

He said he would have to see the full decision by the judge, still being typewritten Sunday, before he could comment further.

Al Seif said the judge had marked with large Xs the points in Al Shimmiri's April 23 confession that appeared damning.

It included volunteering for the army, wearing the Iraqi uniform, helping load ammunition boxes onto trucks bound for Kuwait and visiting his wife and two children in Kuwait twice without trying to escape the army.

No witnesses were heard in the court, nor was the evidence against him presented out loud.

'Democracy is a sin'

PARIS (AP) — Muslim fundamentalists have scored a victory in Algeria by forcing the government to call early presidential elections, and now the nation's 2-year-old experiment with democracy will be put to the test.

The North African nation, in its second state of emergency in less than three years, is bound to make an irrevocable break with its past when it holds legislative and then presidential elections, perhaps in as little as six months.

The question is whether the voters will exchange 26 years of subservience to a Marxist-Socialist state for the social strictures of an Islamic state.

The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, the main opposition party, overwhelmingly won municipal and local elections last June.

Although its popularity has slipped, the party led the street protests that forced the government to give in on presidential elections.

But despite championing early elections, the party isn't keen on an open society.

"Democracy is a sin," the Islamic Front's number two leader, Ali Belhadj, said last week.

Until two weeks ago, Algeria was moving ahead in a democratic process born in the aftermath of deadly 1988 riots that discredited the ruling National Liberation Front and spawned dozens of new political parties.

The government was caught off guard by violent protests by the fundamentalists three weeks before Algeria's first multiparty parliamentary elections, scheduled for June 27.

The Islamic Front demanded

that a presidential election be held with the legislative vote.

After violence increased, with reports of 20 to 50 dead, President Chadli Bendjedid declared martial law Wednesday, suspended the elections and dismissed the government.

Within 48 hours, he had appointed a new premier and announced early presidential elections to follow the legislative vote before the end of the year. The government also likely will implement a new set of election laws that will be more favourable to opponents of the ruling party.

"We have the impression we have saved the Algerian people from a blood bath," Islamic Front Leader Abassi Madani said Saturday, taking credit for the decisions.

Madani, a philosophy professor, could be one of the presidential candidates.

It was not known whether Bendjedid would run for another five-year term. He has presided over Algeria since 1979, and his current term was scheduled to expire in 1993.

"Everything is on the table now," said Bassam Kodmani-Darwish, an Arab World expert at the French Institute for International Relations in Paris. "Finding Abassi Madani one day at the head of the regime cannot be excluded."

The Islamic Front's ranks are bolstered by Algeria's disaffected and unemployed youth. More than 75 per cent of the nation's 25 million people are less than 30 years old, and one-fifth of the working population is unemployed.

Falling oil and gas revenues have battered an economy marked by years of misman-

agement. Economic reforms over the past two years have forced further cutbacks.

The front won the majority of local districts a year ago in the country's first multiparty elections. But its apparent lack of administrative skills coupled with the rigid application of Islamic law — closing music halls, chasing unveiled women off streets — has disappointed some followers.

Bendjedid has been navigating between the old guard in the ruling party, a political machine that grew out of Algeria's independence war with France.

He seems intent on pursuing democracy despite imposing a four-month state of martial law.

He ordered the new premier, former Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, to consult with political parties in forming a new government — a first in Algeria. The Salvation Front was among the first with whom Ghozali met.

"Everyone, including the president, has understood that a real democratic process is needed," Kodmani-Darwish said. "There is no room for half-measures" that would only further discredit the ruling party, he said.

The army, removed from its seat on the ruling party's political committee after the 1988 riots, has been silent throughout the crisis.

"We are still not out of danger of a coup d'etat," Kodmani-Darwish said, but he added that he thought the fundamentalists were a bigger threat to democracy.

Huge military city planned under British arms deal

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Construction of a huge military city in southern Saudi Arabia may start soon as part of a major British arms deal with the kingdom, British officials said.

The officials refused to give a timetable, but said progress had been made in talks this week between Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan and Alan Thomas, the British defence ministry's head of export services, on the Yamamah, or dove, arms project.

The overall Yamamah project comprises two separate deals on

arms purchases and construction of military bases worth a total of 20 million pounds (\$33.4 million).

The first pact, signed in 1985, provided for Saudi Arabia to receive 72 Tornado jet fighters, 30 Hawk jet trainers and 30 Swiss-made Pilatus PC-9 propeller-driven trainers.

The British officials, who refused to be further identified, said that most of that equipment has been delivered.

Details of the second deal have never been fully disclosed, but reportedly concern more Torna-

dos and Hawks plus weapons systems, spare parts, training programmes and six minehunting ships.

It also provides for a subsidiary of British Aerospace PLC, the Dutch firm Ballast Nedam, to construct military bases.

The Saudis are keen to speed up construction of huge military complexes with hardened shelters, which proved vital in the Gulf war by allowing the anti-Iraq coalition to disperse and protect its forces.

The Kingdom already has seven self-sufficient military cities able

to handle troops and aircraft around the country. The Saudis want to build a new one in the southern desert expanses close to the border with Yemen.

This southern military city is the one expected to be undertaken under the Yamamah deals.

The British officials said the Saudis were particularly eager to get Yamamah's construction phase under way.

The Saudis also want to take quick delivery of the Sandown-class minehunting ships, which will soon steam for the Gulf, the British officials said.

The talks between Prince Sultan and Thomas are part of a regular series of meetings held every few months on implementing the coming phases of the Yamamah accords. Britain is the biggest supplier of arms to Riyadh behind the United States.

Riyadh currently pays for the package by transferring oil to British Petroleum, which is then sold on the open market. The proceeds go to the British defence ministry.

The British officials suggested that cash payments may be part of a future agreement.

Palestinians killing each other in fourth year of intifada

By Miriam Jordan
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Inter-Arab violence is spreading fear in the Israeli-occupied territories and tarnishing a Palestinian revolt now three and a half years old.

Palestinian leaders called on Sunday for an end to Arab

slayings of suspected collaborators with Israeli authorities in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The 1.75 million Arabs of the territories, heading a strike call by uprising leaders, shuttered their stores and remained indoors

to honour the start of the struggle 42 months ago.

An informal Reuters count showed nearly twice as many Palestinians were killed in May at the hands of fellow Arabs than by Israeli gunfire: 28 against 18.

"We feel that this wave of killing has to be put to an end — to be stopped," said Hanna Siniara, a nationalist figure and editor of Al Fajr a newspaper that supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Some nationalist figures said Palestinians were wasting energy

on internal matters rather than fighting the occupier.

Others said the killings were mostly damaging to the image of the intifada (uprising). Even the London-based human rights group Amnesty International has voiced concern.

Axes, clubs and knives are the tools employed by death squads. Palestinian leaders are wary of their impact on Western perceptions of their struggle for statehood.

The Israeli army said at least 417 Arabs had been killed by

fellow Arabs since the uprising erupted on Dec. 9, 1987. An unofficial Reuters tally put the figure at 356.

Israelis have killed 803 Palestinians since the start of the revolt. Sixty-six Israelis and five tourists have been killed.

A rise in inter-Palestinian violence is further signalled by the emergency of street rule to deal with petty crime, Palestinian journalists said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus on Friday, about 50 people watched without interfering

while masked activists whipped a thief whose hands and legs were bound to iron bars in a square.

Adnan Damairi, an Al Fajr journalist who lives in the West Bank town of Tulkarm, wrote Palestinians were growing more afraid of masked uprising activists than of Israeli soldiers.

"There is fear among people of masked youth. They come in the middle of the night saying they wish to talk to someone, take them and then it is heard on the radio that a body was found," he

told Reuters.

Jewish-Arab violence, sparked by the police killing of 18 Arabs in occupied Jerusalem last October, has also persisted in the fourth year of the revolt.

On Sunday, Jewish settlers and members of the militant anti-Arab Kach Movement attacked Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Hussein as he left a Jerusalem courthouse.

The militants cursed and spat on Hussein who rushed to his car with two bodyguards. The crowd

surrounded his car, pounded on it and pelted it with stones.

The Jews were there to show support for a 27-year-old settler, accused in court of shooting dead a Palestinian shepherd in a dispute over grazing rights last week. The settler was remanded into custody for 12 days by the magistrates court.

Palestinian knife attacks against Jews continue. In the latest attack on May 17, an Arab man stabbed and wounded three Israelis in a crowded area of West Jerusalem.

Palestinian intellectuals campaign against collaborator killings

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian intellectuals have joined leaders of an uprising in the occupied territories in a campaign to stop militants killing suspected Arab collaborators with Israel.

Palestinian journalists, speaking out publicly for the first time this week, said the wave of killings has tarnished the revolt's image and caused innocent Arabs to suffer.

"Who has the right to impose the death penalty against an innocent person who has not been convicted. And who can decide if a person has actually fallen to collaboration or not?" wrote Palestinian journalists Nabhan Khraishe and Sirhan Al Salaymeh in the pro-PLO newspaper Al Fajr published in east Jerusalem.

"We felt silent while the disease was spreading in our body day after day. Almost all of us whisper to ourselves, but do not dare to speak out loud," they

wrote in a column on Saturday.

"We used to look for excuses or try to reason out the issue of executing collaborators helping the (Israeli) authorities," journalist Adnan Damairi wrote separately in Al Fajr.

Damairi, who lives in the West Bank town of Tulkarm, wrote that Palestinians were beginning to fear masked Arabs more than Israeli soldiers.

"We used to avoid questions from the foreign and Israeli press until the phenomenon turned into

terror," he said.

Hardened young activists, concealing their faces with scarves, roam West Bank and Gaza Strip streets seeking Arabs suspected of providing information to Israeli security forces, selling land to Jews, drug dealing or prostitution.

Nationalist leaders and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat have repeatedly appealed to Arab militants to stop the killings.

The PLO-backed unified lead-

ership of the uprising — one of two groups directing the uprising — has said suspected informers may be killed only by official orders from the highest authorities in the PLO. But the attacks have continued.

An unofficial tally kept by Reuters shows that at least 354 Arabs have been killed by fellow Arabs since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt in December 1987.

Israeli authorities say collaborator killings show the Palestinian

uprising has turned inward in frustration at not achieving independence.

Palestinians say that innocent people are now being questioned or beaten by Arabs pretending to be uprising activists.

Al Fajr managing editor Ali Al Khalili said readers have been complaining about the "dangerous phenomenon" of collaborator killings, prompting him to open the paper for Palestinians to speak about the dark side of the uprising.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Raisons Laveurs
18:30 Systeme Crouche
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:00 Adventures in Space
21:00 News in English
22:00 French feature film: "Le Squealer Policier"

PRAYER TIMES
05:51 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Doha
12:34 Dhuhur
15:44 'Asr
16:15 Maghreb
20:18 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidhah Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637283, 683226.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624950.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Travellers Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Further drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	15 / 26
Aqaba	20 / 35
Dead Sea	16 / 31
Jordan Valley	17 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Tayseer Saadi 777636
Dr. Wael Dumati 774800
Dr. Jamil Mergal 776946
Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 69048
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samsam pharmacy 637660

IRBID:	
Dr. Fida Al Jubour	(-)
Al Sharaf pharmacy	(275825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Izzeddine Abdul Salam	(-)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630441
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 681111, 637177
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	893390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111

Telephone Information	121
(directory assistance)	010230
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

Al-Ahli, Abdull	6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajreen	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	7751126
Army, Marfa	891611715
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Al-Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Im Sina Hospital	(09)96732
IRBID:	
Princess Basmah Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Bin Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)547100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it

should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:15 Singapore, Bangkok (RJ)	
06:35 Moscow, Dubai (RJ)	
06:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
11:15 Amman, Aqaba (RJ)	
17:00 Moscow, New York (RJ)	
17:45 Amman, Cairo (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
13:30 Moscow (SU)	
26:35 Beirut (ME)	
22:15 Khartoum (SF)	
06:45 Bucharest (RO)	
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:00 Amman, Aqaba (RJ)	
11:45 Istanbul, Belgrade (RJ)	
12:15 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)	
13:00 Rome, Madrid (RJ)	
13:00 Paris, London (RJ)	
17:45 Cairo (RJ)	
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)	
20:15 Damascus, Larnaka (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
15:00 Moscow (SU)	
06:15 Khartoum (SF)	
01:15 Bucharest (RO)	
MARKET PRICES	
Upplower price in Sds per kg.	
Apple	700 / 600
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Makassar)	450 / 400
Beans	850 / 750
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	2

Home News

Jordan to attend meeting on environment protection

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in a conference by ministers responsible for the protection of the environment in the developing nations, opening in Peking Friday, and will present its own experiment in matters related to fighting off pollution and protecting the environment.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, who is taking part in the meeting, said that through the conference, and inside meetings, the Jordanian delegation would seek to bolster Jordan's cooperation with other nations in the quest of finding solutions for environmental problems.

The minister, who is accompanied by two senior officials from his department, said that the seven-day meeting was expected to discuss challenges facing the world community and enhancing cooperation among Third World

nations to protect the environment from pollution.

Dr. Zaben, who was speaking Sunday evening upon his departure for Peking, said that major issues related to the contamination of the environment and of concern to the world community would be tackled with a view to reaching a common formula to engineer collective action against pollution and safeguard socio-economic development, and, at the same time deal with the problem of growing population in the Third World.

The Peking party will pave the way for an international conference on the protection of the environment which is scheduled to be held in Brazil in 1992, said Dr. Zaben.

The minister noted that the participants in the Peking meeting would endorse a special document outlining a common stand

with regard to main issues that would be debated at the Brazil conference. The document, he said, would propose a number of measures for international cooperation in the transfer of modern technology, creating a proper international mechanism to finance collective projects designed to solve problems like desertification, drought, contaminated water, decline of crop production, changes in the world's climatic conditions, the accelerated loss of certain living species, disposing of refuse and other related subjects.

Dr. Zaben said his team would submit an outline of the Jordanian experiment in the drive to protect the environment and would put forth a number of proposals for enhancing cooperation between the industrialised and the poor nations in the course of finding solutions to environmental problems.

International activists end peace march, plan trip to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The international Gulf Peace Team who arrived in Amman Sunday after a march from the Israeli occupied West Bank to show support for peace between Israel and Arab countries are planning to go to Iraq on what a member of the group termed as a reconciliation mission.

The 20-member group will be joined by at least seven others of various nationalities on the trip to Iraq which could start immediately upon obtaining visas from Iraqi Embassy in Amman, according to group member Kathy Kelly, of Chicago, Illinois.

The peace team will visit Al Amriyah shelter, which was raided by allied bombers during the Gulf war, and will visit the road linking Karbala to Baghdad and the "death route," followed by Iraqi troops on their way to Iraq after evacuating Kuwait where they were bombed while retreating, Mr. Kelly told the Jordan Times Monday.

mean to express sympathy to the people of Iraq and to express determination in pursuing any possible course that would prevent a recurrence of such atrocity on the part of the major powers," said Ms. Kelly.

The Gulf Peace Team, she added, will organise yet another trip to Iraq, by June 22, in order to voice total rejection of human rights violations and show solidarity with the oppressed people.

The group last week concluded a 120-kilometre march from Jerusalem, commemorating the six-day Arab-Israeli war of 1967, and according to Mr. Kelly, the team was contemplating the idea of holding an annual trek or gathering between Jerusalem and the River Jordan until the Palestinian people's rights have been restored.

The group crossed the King Hussein bridge over the Jordan River on Friday after walking for three days in the West Bank. The marchers crossed the Amman city limits Sunday and

headed for the United Nations buildings to deliver a petition urging international support for the human rights of Palestinians.

About a dozen Jordanian citizens joined the marchers in Amman. Security men escorted the group through the capital streets.

"We learned firsthand about the realities of what Israeli occupation means for Palestinian people, who are denied the freedom of movement, detained and their basic human rights are being violated," said Kelly.

"We want to give a firsthand witness of what we saw in the occupied territories to our home countries," said Ms. Kelly, one of the march organisers.

Members of the group were detained twice by Israeli police for entering strictly controlled military areas in the occupied territories.

The marchers included citizens of the United States, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Finland, India and Ireland.

Priorities for political parties, press laws

Masaadeh: Government embarks on implementing National Charter principles

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Monday announced plans to put into force the principles contained in the National Charter endorsed by the Jordanian people at a general congress in Amman Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh said in a statement to Radio Jordan Monday that the two priorities for the government at the moment are: The political parties law and the press and publication law.

"A draft law on political parties will soon be submitted to the Council of Ministers and then the public will be invited to declare the formation of their parties,"

Mr. Masaadeh said. But, he added, the law will not be put into force until it acquires approval by the Lower House of Parliament.

"Any political party to be formed in the country should be a national party in terms of its principles and objectives and also in terms of its financing and its relationship and national and humanitarian aspirations," Mr. Masaadeh said.

In his statement the minister said: "The government will embark on serious action to translate the aspirations and ideas contained in the National Charter by creating proper laws formed within the framework of

the Jordanian Constitution."

The minister said that the laws would be enacted to conform to the spirit of the National Charter and to reflect the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, who, in his nationwide address, clearly defined the responsibilities of the legislative and executive authorities.

He said that only by following such a course, under the King's directives, can democracy pursue its natural course.

According to Mr. Masaadeh, the government is also following another course, namely preparing a draft publication law which covers such matters as giving licence to people to issue news-

papers and magazines. He said the government had already crystallised the basic principles of this draft law.

In reference to the translation of the National Charter's ideas concerning social and economic issues, Mr. Masaadeh said that Jordan has sufficient laws to deal with these issues and to ensure the continued socio-economic march. He said that amendments to these laws could take place in the new atmosphere of political pluralism.

The National Charter was endorsed by more than 2,000 personalities, representing Jordanian citizens from all walks of life, at a

ceremony attended by His Majesty King Hussein.

The Charter was prepared by a 60-member Royal Commission chaired by former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat. In presenting the Charter to the audience Sunday, Mr. Obeidat described the Charter as laying down a number of concepts, values and rules to regulate national action and outline the path forward for the nation.

Based on the Charter, Mr. Obeidat said, national political organisations and parties will be allowed in the country, but they will be bound by the Constitution and by laws which believe in democracy.

Military Court to try 24 alleged robbers

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Military Court is about to embark on the trial of 24 citizens, including one woman, who face seven serious charges, considered as major crimes in accordance with the Jordanian laws.

The 24 have been accused of creating a dangerous gang for committing robberies, dealing in foreign currency in the black market and carrying and employing fire arms with the purpose of committing robberies, court sources said.

The sources said that the accused have all been involved in a total of 20 robberies in various parts of Amman, getting away with a vast amount of jewellery, including golden and diamond pieces and pearls together estimated to be worth at least JD 1 million.

The sources said that the members of the gang had admitted to committing their crimes since as far back as December 1990 when

they broke into the Vocational Training Centre of Wadi Seer, which is operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Later, the gang directed its attention towards robbing homes. Robberies continued in Shmeisani, Jabal Hussein, Tlaa Al Ali, Sweifeh, Al Hussein refugee camp, Al Ashrafieh and Al Rashid housing district.

The robberies were followed by complaints to the police and, immediately, the Amman Police Department went into action maintaining surveillance of a number of suspected areas where the gang could be haunting, said the sources.

Apart from the jewellery, the gang members have been able to steal videos and television sets in addition to large amounts of cash in various currencies, estimated to be worth JD 600,000.

In the course of robbing one of the homes in Shmeisani the gang members stole a pistol belonging to the house owner along with a number of cameras.

Medical team prepared to aid the pilgrims in Mecca

MEDINA (J.T.) — Sunstroke and food poisoning are the most common illnesses facing Muslims in Medina and Mecca where they perform the annual pilgrimage (Hajj), but the Jordanian medical team accompanying the pilgrims is ready for any emergency, said Dr. Fuad Dardour, head of the team.

"We normally provide advice and guidance to the pilgrims, most of whom are elderly, about means to protect themselves against food poisoning and to avoid sun strokes. We provide emergency services at mobile and stationary clinics set up for this purpose, but we also refer to Saudi hospitals in Mecca and Medina cases that can not be treated at the clinics," said Dr. Dardour.

He said that the Jordanian medical team had made preparations sufficient for Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims, and others, of different nationalities, in case of need.

A total of 5,908 pilgrims from Jordan and Palestinian lands occupied by Israel in 1948 and 1967 are performing this year's haj. Only 955 of these pilgrims arrived here by air, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Dr. Dardour reported that all the pilgrims had arrived in Medina in good health, and that they would soon be heading for Mecca for the Haj rites and final ceremonies preceding the Eid Al Aldha (feast of sacrifice), expected by June 23.

Dr. Dardour said that part of the Jordanian medical team would remain in Medina, while the rest would accompany the pilgrims to Mecca.

Apart from the Medical team, the pilgrims are accompanied by administrative and informational teams, all of whom working in concert and under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel arrived in Mecca Monday, ahead of the pilgrims, and inspected the housing units where the Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims would be stayed

during the Haj.

Dr. Hilayel, who met with members of the teams looking after the pilgrims, said that every measure had been taken to ensure convenience and comfort for the pilgrims.

Dr. Hilayel, who had earlier paid a visit to Saudi Arabia, where he reached agreement with the Saudi authorities concerning the accommodation and transport of the Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims, voiced appreciation for the facilities offered by the Saudis to the pilgrims.

According to Mahmoud Shabat, director of the Haj mission here, all the pilgrims had arrived in Medina and were put up at their housing estate as provided for by the Ministry of Awqaf.

The low turnout for this year's pilgrimage from Jordan and Palestine was attributed to the general economic situation in the two areas, the worst affected by the Gulf crisis, and to the negative consequences of the Gulf war on the whole Arab region.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian-Jordanian companies meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Wednesday will host meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian Maritime Company and the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company. Minister of Transport Jamal Al Saraireh, who heads the Jordanian side, said that the two teams would review the present financial and administrative situation in the two companies and plans for the future. The Syrian team will be led by Minister of Transport Yousef Ahmad, who is expected in Amman Tuesday.

Amman zones to hold celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality zones will organise special celebrations between June 11 and June 20 to celebrate Jordan's national and religious days and feasts. The first such activity will be held at Jubelha School, where Shafa Badran, Abu Nuseir and Tareq areas will have their celebration, followed by Qawaismeh zone, which will host a celebration by Khreibet Al Souq, Um Qasir and Qawaismeh areas. A third celebration will be held at Omar Al Mukhtar School, in Tla'a Al Ali. Taking part in this celebration will be Sweifeh, Wadi Seer, Badr and Tla'a Al Ali zones. The celebration will be attended by Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat.

Deputy demands investigation into corporation violations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Parliament member Fuad Khalafat is reported to have submitted to the prosecutor general documents related to financial corruption cases at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and demanded that investigation start in these cases.

A report in Al Ra'i daily said that the documents pointed to 18 serious violations plus a number of petty cases also related to financial embezzlements.

To back the documents, the report said, the deputy provided names of witnesses who can give testimony in the court.

Earlier, corporation Director General Radi Al Khas held a press conference urging members of the public to submit any information pointing to improper financial dealings at his department to the public prosecutor.

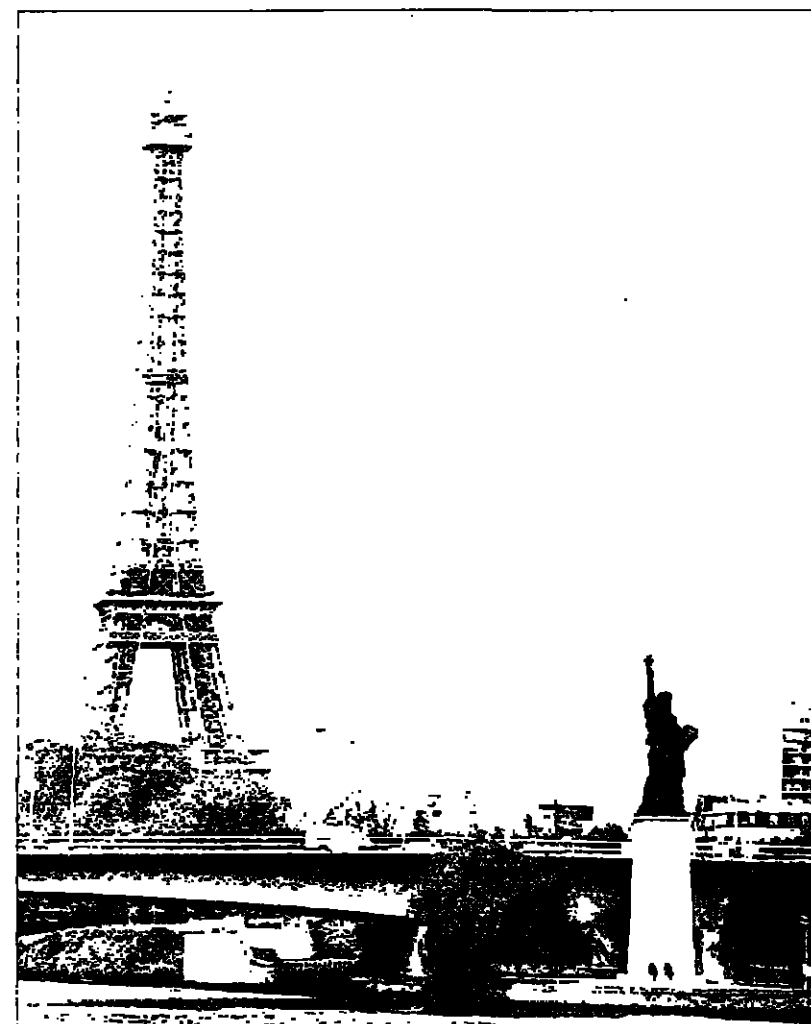
Normally cases related to the embezzlement of public funds are referred to the Military Court, the only authority to deal with such cases.

The Military Court is currently examining the cases of 45 citizens facing charges of embezzlement at the now defunct Petra Bank.

At Sunday's hearing the first witness, Yousef Salem, who had been appointed head of a special committee to look into the excesses of the Petra Bank before its liquidation, said that some of the bank employees were involved in cases involving rent of real estate for the bank.

Mr. Salem told the court that there was a difference in the account books, totalling nearly JD 3.5 million, which, he said, were supposed to have been paid in rent for Petra Bank premises but had never been acknowledged by the landlords.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Giffot at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Comprehensive book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Vernacular Landscapes of Jordan" by Dr. Kamel Mahadin at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic on the infidelity by Dr. Asaad Abdul Rahman entitled "Challenges and Solutions" at UKAS Club, Jabal Lawzeh — 8:00 p.m.

Specialised Medical Laboratory opened

Tillawi Medical Laboratories

Under the supervision of

Dr. Ibrahim Shafiq Tillawi

American Board of Anatomical and Clinical Pathology
Fellow of the Society for Hematopathology

announces the opening of his laboratory, which is equipped with the latest technical equipment necessary for carrying out all tests. The laboratory started functioning as of Saturday June 8, 1991, at Shmeisani specialised medical centre, opposite Shmeisani Hospital's main entrance

Tel. 694141, 694142 — Fax 694143
Office hours: from 8.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. daily
Thursday from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Friday is an official holiday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Jordan Times advertising department.

Why the leniency?

IT TOOK the destruction of nearly JD 60 million-worth of crops in the Jordan Valley by polluted water from the King Talal Dam to awaken the government to the urgent need to curb the continuing poisoning of the Zarqa River waters that feed the dam with boron and other harmful chemicals. The question that poses itself in the aftermath of this ecological disaster is: Where were the authorities all this time when waste water from the factories situated along the Zarqa River basin was generously being dumped into one of the main tributaries leading to the dam?

It was only after inflicted farmers had made an outcry that governmental inspection teams began in earnest to investigate the contamination emanating from some 38 factories and plants along the river basin in a belated bid to ensure that they comply with standing regulations on the disposal of waste water.

"The government is determined not to be lenient in the application of the law on all factories and companies which fail to link their drainage systems to the main sewers," the Zarqa governor declared in the wake of alarming disclosures about the deteriorating quality of King Talal Dam's water. A few weeks ago the minister of industry and trade also echoed the same sentiment and warned that factories and plants suspected of contributing to the problem had until the end of May to comply with the existing regulations on the disposal of waste water. "In the past years," the minister confirmed, "the water did not cause so much ecological damage nor was the water so polluted because factories had abided by the law." What the minister did not explain, however, is why the authorities were not informed for so long and had not carried their work seriously and in time to notice the beginning of the crisis. There is obviously something lacking either in the existing laws or in the current machineries to supervise the observance of the law on such important matters. If it is the former, then the applicable laws need to be strengthened. If it is the latter, then the concerned authorities deserve to be reprimanded for dereliction of their duties.

What also has not been explained is why the violators had still the end of May to abide by the law at a time when they were found to have already violated existing legislations. Instead of giving the culprits a respite and more breathing space, the government should entertain bringing them to justice in order to serve notice on all other pollutants in the country that the government is serious about environmental matters. The Kingdom has already many urgent issues to deal with that it can ill-afford to cope with man-made disasters that some people inflict on the country. Civil and possible criminal prosecution of the suspects would therefore be in order and timely. When the negligence of the factories and plants in question borders on criminal negligence, the government should not be lenient towards them whatsoever. The seriousness of the government about resolving this problem can be best manifested by acting firm against the current violators of the law.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian Arabic dailies Monday lauded the endorsement of the National Charter by more than 2,000 personalities representing a cross section of the Jordanian people. Al Ra'i Arabic daily said with this endorsement a new stage in the march of democracy will now start in Jordan, with the doors wide open for political pluralism and a strong foundation for political action and dialogue aimed at safeguarding national interests. Cooperation between the Jordanian leader and his people in further deepening mutual confidence and enhancing the road to full democracy, reflects the strong relationship between the two sides over the past four decades during which the Kingdom passed through various ordeals but accomplished a great deal, said the paper. June 9, when the National Charter was endorsed, will leave its mark on Jordan's history since it was the day when the Jordanian citizens voiced their absolute support for the continuation of the march of democracy that can guarantee respect of man and his ideas, and maintain the momentum for further development and progress, said the paper. With the endorsement of the National Charter Jordan has thus set a good example for other Arab countries aspiring to freedom and democratic rule, the paper added. It said through democracy one can be assured of continued progress for this country and its future generations.

A columnist in Al Dastour Arabic daily tackles the plight of the Palestinians found in Kuwait, and says that regardless of the various international efforts to stop the tragedy befalling them, gangs of murderers are still committing their crimes against the innocent Palestinian civilians. Palestinian people found in Kuwait are still exposed to various forms of torture, detention and deportation at the hands of murderous militias roaming Kuwaiti City and acting as the real power in the country, says Mazen Hamad. We have heard calls from Amnesty International and other world organisations for halting the systematic killing of the Palestinians, and we have heard Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah threatening to impose severe punishment on those who are behind the torture and the killing of Palestinians, but nothing has materialised, and the Palestinians continue to be the subject of torture and detention all the time, says the writer. Things are getting out of hand in Kuwait, and the militias are allowed to spread terror everywhere without any drastic measure taken to stop their atrocities, the writer added. Why should the Palestinians be blamed for Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and why are the Palestinians considered to be Saddam Hussein on whom they want to take revenge? asks the writer. He says, should the cycle of violence continue and more Palestinian blood shed, there might come a time when the violence in Kuwait would be impossible to halt.

India: Bigotry and death, democracy and hope

By Pran Chopra

THE assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, his face blown off, the skull smashed, limb torn from limb, must be one more proof, for those wishing to believe it, that India cannot hold together much longer.

The idea is reinforced by the recent rioting during India's most violent election, which left many scores dead. This was a re-run of what had happened only seven years earlier when Rajiv's mother, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated in a political-religious eruption. Rioters took over Delhi and killed several thousand. For years Indira Gandhi had been the only government, and none was left when she fell to the bullets of her own security guards.

Repeatedly, as the Indian drama has unfolded since independence, on Aug. 15, 1947, fate seems to slip in episodes from the same reel of violence. The most startling was the assassination of another Gandhi, the Mahatma, on Jan. 30, 1948. The most gruesome was the bloody massacre of the partition riots, when hundreds of thousands were killed within a few weeks.

The grim greyness of Hindu-Muslim riots, between opposing mobs which look alike in their poverty rags and criminal rage, is a danger ever present behind every disturbance. But often, all too often, it is broken by holocausts with more vivid colour: head-hunting tribes in the north-east battling the Indian army with their own underground "field marshals" and "generals"; the silvery peace of Kashmir ending in the wailing of hundreds of Muslim women clad in black; the flowing beards of Sikh militants at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, now as often seen carrying AK 47 rifles as naked swords.

The latest tumult in this unfortunate line is also the largest. The saffron-coloured backlash of Hindu orthodoxy claims to protect the motherland against a rebellious periphery, and against "ungrateful guests," as it describes the Muslims.

This orthodoxy, founded upon the highest segments of the Hindu social order, the caste system, wants to curb the growing restlessness of the lower castes. The conflict has inflamed the most ancient of Indian schisms. The primordial instincts and loyalties which it can arouse shook much longer.

The idea is reinforced by the recent rioting during India's most violent election, which left many scores dead. This was a re-run of what had happened only seven years earlier when Rajiv's mother, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated in a political-religious eruption. Rioters took over Delhi and killed several thousand. For years Indira Gandhi had been the only government, and none was left when she fell to the bullets of her own security guards.

The soldiers of this orthodoxy are a photogenic army of Hindu priests and mendicants with an assortment of others who have been pouring out of their social caves for the past year or two. The cameras of news men linger over them lovingly as they swarm across the electoral scene, or as they tried last year to pull down an ancient Muslim mosque, an event which precipitated the present elections. The strike of their pickaxes only repeated the question whether India would survive.

In reply, the Hindu orthodoxy yells an emphatic "yes" in a chorus, orchestrated by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Its leaders reject the secularism of Nehru's India vociferously and are making a strong bid for power in New Delhi. The modern-minded, liberal, democratic and secular Indian, suspecting a streak of fascism in the BJP, bites his nails in nervousness.

Whether fascist or not, the BJP has won over many in the upper business and commercial sections and the administration. It is no longer a party of fanatical youth with the financial backing of small traders. Many top military men have also joined it.

But the BJP's problem is that Hindu society is like an onion; the more you peel in search of the core the less you find it. This explains why many outside the BJP fear that its loyalties will first antagonise the non-Hindu and then absorb the Hindu into a vanishing nugget. These schisms and tensions, which are endemic, and the crises into which they repeated erupt, give the impression that India is being ground down by poverty and torn asunder by dissensions.

They give this impression until you flip the coin. Then you see a very different side of India.

The British left behind more than 500 Indian princely states; each of the 500 odd "princely states" became fully sovereign and independent. But within a couple of years, India knitted them together without firing a shot except in Kashmir, and later Hyderabad. This must rank among the largest acts of peaceful assimilation in history. It made India a larger juridical and administrative unit that it had ever been, under or before British rule.

Of all the territorial problems which accompanied the partition of India from Pakistan, only one now simmers, in Kashmir. All other secessionist threats have been resolved; that of Tamil Nadu was resolved entirely peacefully. (The "Sikh problem" is different because the Sikhs are not secessionists; only some militants are.) Within the first three years, India also accomplished one of the largest rehabilitation of refugees and completed, and unanimously adopted, one of the most detailed and complex constitutions.

Under this constitution, India regularly conducts the world's largest elections. The last time it did so, in 1989, it had to handle an electorate of 500 million, out of whom 297 million voted. Except in this year, the elections have been free of any serious violence, have habitually returned centrist-liberal-democratic forces to power, have churned up a broad national consensus and have democratised, indigenised, ruralised and humanised communism more than in any other country.

Although undernourishment persists, famine has been banished, and production of food grains has risen fivefold. Poverty, which was absolute even by Indian standards, has been reduced by about a third. Indeed, India no longer has the cheap surplus

labour it used to have. Punjabi farmers have to import labour from 1,000 miles away, from the poverty pit of Bihar.

Industrial growth touched double digits in the late eighties. Agricultural growth, though slower, maintained itself over a longer haul, became less dependent upon good weather, and showed a well co-ordinated increase in the productivity of several hundred million people.

Indian industry meets around 90 per cent of the country's needs and foreign aid accounts for much less than 10 per cent of investments. More than 100 million Indians have the same consumption standards as many in the lesser among the developed countries and 30 million to 40 million compare with those in the richest.

To an extent usually associated only with revolutions, political power has been transferred horizontally from the city to the town to the village, and from the urban-industrial to rural-agricultural interests. It has been transferred vertically from the big industry to medium entrepreneurs, from the pre-partition landed gentry to the descendants of their tenants and cultivators, then to the medium and very small land holders, and now, by hesitant steps, to the latter's hired labour and the landless. Few countries have changed so radically and so quickly by democratic means and with less violence.

The effect may be seen in most villages outside the eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar regions. The main shop is not very different from lesser ones in the town, television antennae poke through broken roofs, a transistor radio is often the companion of the man behind the plough. Any sizeable village would have branches of more than one well known bank. Rural households' savings contribute to the stock of city-based corporations and are an important part of the overall household savings sector, which in turn is almost a quarter of total savings, a proportion exceeded only in China.

If these bits and pieces of change seem too remote, note the

following, which fits more snugly into the values of our wicked times. Between the two assassinations, of the mother in 1984 and of the son this week, India came to feature in the western media as a "rising super power" as one of them put it, or at least as a regional power, partly because of rising military spending.

Why then all those forebodings about India's future, which I described earlier, on the other side of the coin? Partly they reflect the fact that the reality is bad, and partly that the image is, even worse.

In economic policy, India made the cardinal blunder of rushing forward without preparing the ground. Heavy investments were financed by deficits at home and reckless borrowings abroad, but little was done first to improve the efficiency of the capital at work. So, although the growth rate has improved, India faces its worst ever financial crisis. The resulting erosion of confidence makes further borrowings extremely difficult. Even so, the base of the economy is now much wider and stronger; so a more sound thrust forward is attainable with the right policies.

Similarly, the polity is in disarray but not in decay. Most of its critical components have greater vigour than before, and have opportunities to rebuild themselves afresh.

The Congress (I) party, in particular, has the chance to rid itself of dependence upon the crutch of the Nehru family. How ready it is to use the opportunity may be in doubt, considering the pathetic attempt to persuade Sonia Gandhi to be its next president, as though anyone is good enough if the name is right.

But it has the chance to rejuvenate itself with a collegiate of authentic leaders. Even if it does not, India now has more viable parties than ever before, each with its distinct base and policy thrust, vigorously competitive and each able to be an alternative government by itself or in coalition.

The era of the one-family party

appears, happily, to be over. It is not too greatly disturbed by the powerful emergence of BJP, might perhaps become functionally Hindu. But more than half of its support comes from those who are disappointed with the other parties. The appeal of its dogmatic Hindu face will not prosper as long as India remains a democracy.

And I have little doubt that India will remain so. Every time India has honoured the democratic verdict, it has succeeded in solving its problems, be they linguistic reorganisation of states in the mid-1950s or the late aspirations of Tamil Nadu or the bringing of the geographical or social fringe into the mainstream of politics.

Every time the verdict has been subverted, India has been in trouble, be it in Punjab, or Assam or Kashmir. Now democracy is even more deeply integrated with the social and economic fabric, drawing strength from the "lowest depths" of the Indian pyramid. That is why the backward classes and castes, for the first time, have a party among the front runners for powers. There is also more promise that the other great systemic tension in Indian politics between the Union, that is the centre, and the federating states will be resolved. The constitution provides for a healthy balance between them. But the Congress (I), subverted it. Being itself prone to a highly centralised and authoritarian style, it carried the infection into the structure of state power during its long years in office.

But this excess has brought about a widespread realisation that the imbalance must be corrected. This, and the need for decentralising power to the villages, have become a part of the emerging consensus. I can therefore see many healing tendencies which can correct the distortion of the economy and the polity. This is the aspect of the Indian reality, which registers much less especially abroad, because it does not throw up menacing images—The Financial Times.

Is America about to go bust?

By Paul Moorcraft

THE world's only real superpower may be on the verge of bankruptcy. By the end of 1990 the national debt of the USA amounted to some \$300,000 billion. This represents 60 per cent of the gross national product. The U.S. is now — by a wide margin — the world's largest debtor.

The U.S. national debt is expected to mount by about \$250 billion over each of the next two years. If it continues to grow at this rate the debt will double before the turn of the century. But the federal government is not the only institution in hock to the markets. New York City is again in trouble; in 1974-75 it was close to bankruptcy. From July 1991 its annual budget will be in deficit to the tune of over one billion dollars. The city has been losing manufacturing jobs because of high local taxes while the middle class residents continue to move to the safer suburbs, as the quality of city life is continuously degraded.

Even the golden state of California is running out of bucks. Pete Wilson, the governor, recently announced a \$13 billion state deficit. He said: "We could close all our state universities. We could open and empty all our prisons. We could eliminate our entire state workforce. And we could still not balance our budget."

Why is America in such a mess? The U.S. is not embroiled in any Vietnam. It might even have made a small profit on the recent Gulf adventure. The problem is the enormous financial hangover caused by the excesses of the Reagan years. Future historians may identify the 1990s as the decade when the U.S. won the long arms race with the USSR, but only a crippling cost.

Iraq appeals for grace period

(Continued from page 1)

and incorrect.

He said in a letter to de Cuellar that Iraq simply will not be able to feed its people, repair damage from allied bombing and pay compensation for at least five years.

"Iraq once again requests that a five-year grace period be set, during which no sum shall be deducted from its oil export earnings, in order that it may address the major problems strangling its economy and threatening the Iraqi people with hunger and disease," he wrote in the letter.

"The years 1991 and 1992, at the very least, should be considered a grace period," he wrote.

He asked that the letter be circulated to representatives of the 15 nations on the Security Council.

De Cuellar has proposed that Iraq not be forced to pay more than 30 per cent of its future oil revenues.

The Security Council must decide whether to accept or modify the secretary-general's recommendation.

The United States, however, its still lobbying the other council members to support its proposal that Iraq be required to set aside up to 50 per cent of its oil revenues for compensation payments.

deposit insurance schemes themselves. They have encouraged greedy depositors to seek out the banks and thrifts which offered the highest returns without bothering too much how those returns were generated. In effect, the deposit insurance schemes removed the risk lending to the financial institutions and encouraged money managers to take too many risks with their investments. Sidney Taylor, the research director of the National Taxpayers' Union, has made an apocalyptic estimate of \$14 trillion in potential taxpayers' liabilities for thrift insurance. If these liabilities were realised, they could make the present gigantic federal budget look puny.

On top of making dodgy loans to the Third World, property companies and take-over artists, the U.S. banking system also financed a credit boom for private consumers. Credit card debt, for example, increased from \$55 billion in 1980 to over \$200 billion in 1990, and loans on cars rose from \$112 billion to nearly \$300 billion. Tax changes and the 1987 Stock Market crash, however, have curbed the growth of (non-mortgage) consumer debt.

It's not all bad news. The U.S. trade imbalance has improved from \$171 billion in 1987 to \$101 billion in 1990. This is partly because Washington allowed the dollar to depreciate against major currencies such as the yen and the mark. But there are still dangers. Short-term U.S. interest rates, at just under 6 per cent are among the lowest in the developed economies. Such cheap credit could encourage another debt-financed boom in consumer expenditure. This could also increase expenditure on imported goods, thus widening the international trade deficit again. A cheap money policy may fuel domestic inflation

which could remove the competitive edge given to U.S. importers by the artificially low exchange rate. The resulting deterioration of the trade gap could lead to a rise in interest rates and a recession to squeeze out inflation.

Interest rates pose a problem for the government which finances its deficit by selling bonds to investors who are attracted by the return. Many of these are foreign investors, because domestic savings levels are low compared with those in Japan and Europe. Investors can get over 10 per cent in the U.K. and Italy, and over 8 per cent in Germany and Switzerland. Moreover, Japan and Germany have exported far less capital in the last year. Germany is preoccupied with the costs of reunification and the Japanese are terrified of a domestic property crash. So, if the federal bond auctions are unsuccessful, hard domestic choices loom: George Bush would have to raise taxes, or increase interest rates, or drastically cut back on federal programmes. A deeper recession, political discontent and possibly social unrest, especially in minority communities, could ensue.

The end of every empire has been marked by two closely related phenomena — military overstretch and bankruptcy. The former may not be immediately apparent after the Gulf war, but the symptoms of the latter are clear. The crusade against Saddam Hussein may well be a "last, almost spastic twitching of U.S. supremacy," as German commentator, Theo Sommer, put it. Compared with its old rival, Russia, America's days as a military superpower may not yet be over. But in economic terms the U.S. is in hock up to its eyebrows. For "America the Brave" read "America the Broke."

Moussa in Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

resolved.

The future of a proposed Gulf security force was also high on the Damascus talks agenda.

Also Monday, Israel said it was sending Foreign Minister David Levy to the United States on Tuesday to explain its rejection of Bush's appeal.

"He (Levy) isn't going to deliver a special message, but should be asked, he will explain the stance of the Israeli government and the state of Israel," Shamir told reporters on Monday.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv said Washington knew

Levy would be the guest of an American Jewish group but had not yet announced any official meetings. Israeli officials said Levy's agenda would be available on Tuesday.

Shamir denied Israel was blocking U.S. efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference and played down differences between the Jewish state and its closest ally and guardian.

"We aren't arguing with the United States, not with its president and not with its government. We are explaining our way, our needs," he said after touring a girls' school in Jerusalem.

LETTERS

We all are Rami's mirror

To the Editor:

GEORGE Halford's negative remarks on Rami Khouri's political analysis in "The View From Fourth Circle" are completely unjustified, (Jordan Times May 29).

If Mr. Halford had been bestowed with a deeper political acumen he would know that the Arabs are forced to spend huge amount of their GNP on armaments because the West keeps supporting the Jewish state unconditionally, militarily and morally.

Even this massive Arab expenditure on armaments cannot enable them to reach a fair military parity with the expansionist Zionist state.

We, the ones, who chose to stay in Jordan during the Gulf war, feel a deep sentiment of contempt towards some journalists of the western media who were "mis-covering" the war and consequently mis-using the hospitality of their Jordanian hosts.

Rami has always been an objective, honest, realistic and far-sighted journalist. We wish the western media could have in its ranks more of the same calibre. We are proud of him, we are his mirror!

Maria Saudi,
Amman.

'The King and I'

HELLO. I am Yara. I am eleven years old. I want to tell you the story of the man I love. I always felt that way towards him. And ever since I can remember I have sent him letters sealed with a kiss. Pink, red and orange letters, to tell him how I felt and how much I loved him. Until then I had never met him in person but he was everywhere I went; his image covered TV screen and the front pages of the newspapers. In my wildest dreams I never thought time would come for me to meet "my King", to shake hands with him or, much less, hug him.

But suddenly, my dream came true and I found myself face-to-face with the man I love. "The King wants to see you," they told me. "He must have liked my love letters," I thought to myself as I walked through the corridors of the palace where important men waited to see him.

Suddenly a door opened and there he was in flesh and blood greeting me at the entrance. Smiling tenderly, he shook hands with me ever so gently.

The night before the occasion I could not sleep. I was thinking of the words I wanted to tell him. Where do I start to tell him how nice and tender-hearted he is. But once our eyes met I could not utter a word. Instead I just shook hands with him and kept kissing him on the cheek. He said he would look for a corner in his office to hang the gift I brought with me. It is a red heart with the words "I love you this much."

He kept asking me about my schoolmates and about how I did at school. He also asked me about my studies and whether I enjoyed going to school. There were too many things we could have talked about but I just couldn't say a word. I wanted to enjoy every second with him. And there I was, speechless.

My King, the things I could not say in your presence I say them in your absence. Because I really want to tell you how much I love you. How much my schoolmates think about you. How much you mean to us. You are really our father and ideal. We know that you are busy trying to prevent wars, but yet you find time to talk to us. You found time to plant a tree when the war started. You find time to talk to women, hug children, listen to old people and comfort the sick... that is why we all love you.

Yara G.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1991

Largest peace conference

By E. Yaghi
Special to the Jordan Times

IN AN ancient valley in the blessed city of Mecca is situated a place of worship known as the Ka'ba. It is here that God commanded Prophet Abraham and his son Ismael to construct this site of worship over four thousand years ago. The building was made of stone on what many believe was the original site of a sanctuary built by Prophet Adam.

Recent events in the Middle East have seemed to distort the image of the unique unity that is an inherent trait of Islam. Nonetheless splintered Muslims may be due to national or political ideologies, the pilgrimage (or hajj) congregates this diversity of the faithful and veers them towards the largest annual convention of faith where Muslims meet. This convention which takes place in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar, is the largest peace conference in the world where around two million people attend each year. Peace is the dominant theme; peace with God and one's soul, peace with one another and with animals, peace with birds and yes, even with insects. Truly in any day and age, peace is a blessing and a glorious goal to seek.

The pilgrimage breaks down barriers of class and race. From all corners of the globe and from all walks of life, Muslims assemble in Mecca in response to the call of God. All dress in the same simple way demonstrating the fact that all are God's creatures and also a reminder that when each believer faces death he will be even more simply clothed.

Too, all believers observe the same regulations, avoid the same supplications at the same time in the same manner for the same end. During the pilgrimage there is no royalty, but only loyalty to God. There is no ruling class, but only humility and devotion to the supreme creator.

One of the many purposes of the hajj is to acquaint the pilgrims with the spiritual and historical environment of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Another is to commemorate the divine rituals observed by Abraham and Ismael who are the first pilgrims to the first house of God on earth, that is, the Ka'ba at Mecca.

The pilgrimage is a reminder of the grand assembly on the Day of Judgement when all people will stand equal before God awaiting their final fate. This day is a time when no race or status can be claimed superior. The pilgrimage is also a reminder that Mecca alone in the world was honoured by God in being the centre of monotheism since the time of Abraham and it will continue to be the centre until the end of time.

The pilgrimage is a course of devotion to God alone and Muslims go to Mecca to glorify God alone. The Ka'ba at Mecca is considered to be the spiritual centre of Islam and the spiritual homeland of every Muslim. It is to Mecca that the believers turn their faces in prayer five times a day.

The hajj to Mecca is an obligation only for those who are physically and financially able to perform it. The rites of the pilgrimage include circling the Ka'ba seven times and going seven times between the mountains of Safa and Marwa as did Hajar

during her search for water with her infant son Ismael. The close of the hajj is marked by the festival of Eid Al Adha.

Al hajj is marked by offering a sacrifice in order to celebrate the devotional course as well as to feed poor so they may feel the universal joy of the eid day. This duty is not only undertaken by pilgrims, but by all able Muslims all over the world. Lambs are sacrificed in memory of the lamb Abraham sacrificed to God in place of his son Ismael. It was made known to Prophet Abraham that he must slay his son. Because he couldn't bear to see Ismael's face when he slayed him, Abraham placed his son on his stomach. As he was ready to carry out the revelation, an angel appeared and told him, "Abraham, you believed the revelation." A big lamb was sent down from Paradise and was thus sacrificed instead of Ismael.

To all those pilgrims who gather from all over the world, may God accept their hajj and to those who remain behind, may they all have a happy eid and enjoy the blessing of peace and contentment!

U.S.' mother of all parades

(Continued from page 1)

climbed on top of a "Bradley Fighting Vehicle" passing along the parade route, the crowds cheered and applauded.

The debate is more than just a difference in opinion between those who opposed the war and those who supported it. It is also about political posturing. For politicians, the celebrations provide political capital for the 1992 presidential elections, a theme rendered no less important by the fact that the U.S. was not in the best of shapes economically when the war started.

"This is good for America," said President Bush of the "Desert Storm" celebrations. Republicans boast that the celebrations are an acknowledgement of the success of the military campaign and the resulting liberation of Kuwait. According to Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, the celebrations also signify the end of Saddam Hussein "as a threat to his neighbours."

On the other hand, the Democrats, the majority of whom were opposed to the

war, while finding it difficult to criticise the celebrations, say very little has been achieved overseas for Americans to be celebrating in this manner. Members of the Kuwaiti opposition attest that democracy is far from materialising in their country; the Gulf war and its aftermath have brought considerable suffering to the Kurds; and the Arab-Israeli conflict is far from being resolved.

According to Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, a Democrat who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the victory parade which lasted longer than the ground war itself, is no more than a celebration of weaponry. "We are a country of technology junkies," she said in a television interview, adding that the parade was a celebration of hardware in which people have ignored the human aspect of the war. While it is true that the U.S. has won the war, what of the peace, Schroeder wondered.

The weekend parade was also a time for the U.S.' allies — Arab and others — not only to

celebrate but to come to grips with the reality of America's power. Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S., Sheikh Saud Nasr Al Sabah, who attended the celebration along with other officials representing the U.S.' allies in the Gulf war, thanked the U.S. and its coalition partners for their efforts to rid his country of Iraq's occupation. He asked that God rest in peace the souls of "our heroes," a reference to American soldiers who lost their lives in the war against Iraq.

A full-page colour advertisement in the Washington Post by the Saudi embassy thanked the American people, President Bush, members of Congress and "the courageous men and women of the U.S. armed forces" for what it called America's stalwart stand in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Algerian military holds 34

(Continued from page 1)

hurt. A military communique said extremists, apparently belonging to Takfir Wal Hijra (anathema and flight), tried to mount several acts of violence on Sunday. Takfir Wal Hijra is a small group on the fringe of Algeria's Islamic fundamentalists.

The arrests were made since President Chadli Benjedid put the country under a state of siege on Wednesday.

The military communique said troops were hunting six bearded men in military uniform who broke into a firm's offices in Oum El Boughi, some 400 kilometres east of the capital on Saturday. Troops making a routine check at Batna, 330 kilometres south-east of Algiers, arrested four armed FIS activists, the military said, but gave no other details.

Late Sunday, Algeria's new prime minister said he will form a

non-party government to ensure fair conduct of a general election.

He did not promise a quick presidential election, which was also demanded by the fundamentalists.

The new prime minister, former foreign minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, told Algerians in a 10-minute television speech his cabinet would be named within a few days.

He said it would be composed of "independent personalities" free from political party influence.

Madani, on Monday said the timeframe had been set for the president to face voters.

In an initial reaction to a Sunday night statement by the prime minister that he planned a non-party government, Madani said:

"Despite everything, it is the first time that recognition of presidential elections in a limited timeframe has been declared officially."

2 Jordanians convicted

(Continued from page 1)

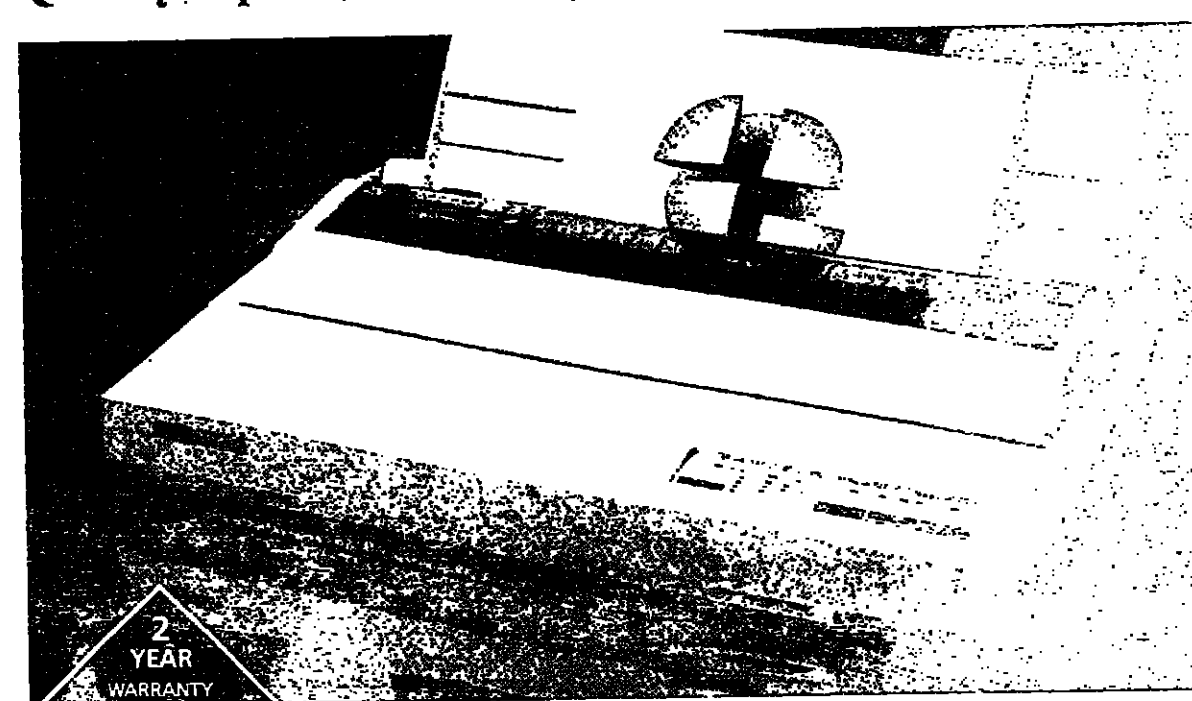
tia included many old men and children considered unfit or of the wrong age for regular military service.

Other charges range from theft and rape to possession of firearms, forging documents and collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which backed Baghdad in the Gulf crisis.

On Saturday a bedouin who said he joined the militia because of death threats to himself and his family was sentenced to hang.

He has no right of appeal under martial law provisions but a weekend announcement by the justice ministry said a panel of three legal experts had been set up to review all verdicts.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Sao Paulo takes championship

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Former Brazil soccer coach Tele Santana won his first major title in 20 years as Sao Paulo drew 0-0 with Bragantino to win the Brazilian soccer championship final Sunday. Sao Paulo, needing only to draw after winning Wednesday's first leg 1-0, duly achieved the result they wanted but ignored their coach's preference for attacking soccer. In a bad-tempered match, they rarely ventured out of their own half, committed numerous fouls and were guilty of time-wasting as they earned Santana, Brazil's coach in the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, his first title since 1971. Bragantino created few clear chances, striker Mazinho missing his team's best chance in the 75th minute when he fired the ball straight at Sao Paulo goalkeeper Zetti from point blank range. Sao Paulo were dangerous on the break and should have scored in the 12th minute when striker Muller fired over the Bragantino goal from six metres after Macedo's header had rebounded off the crossbar. Midfielder Rai, tightly marked for most of the match, also hit the Bragantino bar with a half-volley from the edge of the penalty area in the last minute.

Chicago wins 97-82

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Michael Jordan scored 28 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 97-82 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Sunday giving the Bulls a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven National Basketball Association (NBA) championships. The Bulls will have a chance to win their first ever NBA title Wednesday when they face the Lakers in game five. If necessary, games six and seven will be played in Chicago. Jordan led Chicago with 28 points, the 16th consecutive time he's led his team in scoring. He also had 13 assists, his third game in double figures in the finals. The Lakers who have now lost three successive games after winning the opening contest in Chicago, were led by Yugoslavian centre Vlade Divac, who scored 27 points, Magic Johnson, the Lakers superstar guard, had 22, while James Worthy added 12.

Japan wins over Spurs

TOKYO (R) — Japan delighted an ecstatic crowd of 45,000 Sunday by beating English F.A. Cup holders Tottenham Hotspur 4-0 to win the annual Kirin Cup International Round-Robin Tournament. Spurs, listless and unimpressive at the end of a long domestic season, conceded three goals in the first-half and never remotely looked like closing the gap.

Hertha Berlin forced to play amateur

FRANKFURT (R) — Hertha Berlin, who were relegated this season after just a year in the German first division, have lost their licence to play in professional soccer because of mounting debts. The German Soccer Federation (DFB) decided Monday to withdraw licences from Hertha and second division side Rot-Weiss Essen because both "lacked the ability to perform financially." Hertha will now be forced to play in Germany's amateur Oberliga. They have been reported as having financial liabilities of some 6.2 million marks (\$3.5 million). They have just over a week to appeal against the ruling.

Gibraltar seeks Olympic membership

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — Sports officials from the British Colony of Gibraltar held an hour-long meeting with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sunday in an attempt to gain recognition in time for next year's Barcelona games. Nigel Pardo, secretary-general of the unofficial Gibraltar Olympic Committee (GOC), handed over a memorandum setting out the colony's claim for membership of the Olympic movement. The document, submitted on the eve of an IOC executive board meeting which will precede the full IOC session later this week, included an allegation that the Spanish government had sought to block Gibraltar's participation in sports events on Spanish soil, including the Olympics. After his meeting with IOC Director-General Francois Carrard, Pardo said he would discuss further moves with Carrard by telephone tomorrow. "The IOC has not formally accepted or rejected our memorandum, although Carrard said the prospect that it would be included on the official agenda were very slim," Pardo said.

Boxers inducted into Hall of Fame

CANASTOTA, New York (AP) — Two-time former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson and Sonny Listz, the man who dethroned him, were inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame Sunday along with 20 other past champions. All eight living inductees — seven champions and a trainer spanning more than a half century of boxing — were on hand for the 90-minute ceremony, as well as previously inducted champions and special guests, including former middleweight champion "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler. Before the living members received their rings and were formally inducted into the 3-year-old museum, 15 other past champions from the modern, old-time and pioneer eras, and three non-boxers also were enshrined.

Bundesliga forced to find two trophies

BONN (R) — Official have been forced to produce two trophies as the German League soccer season reaches an exciting climax Saturday. The real silver salad bowl will be in Cologne where leaders Kaiserslautern need a point to win their first title for nearly four decades. Bundesliga officials said Monday. But a replica will also be sent to Munich where Bayern, two points behind, could take the championship on goal difference if they beat Bayer Uerdingen and Kaiserslautern lose.

GOREN BRIDGE

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A GOLDEN-AGE BEAUTY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ A 8 6 5 3
♥ 4 2
♦ 10 8
♣ A Q J 8

WEST
♠ K 7
♥ A J 5
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ K Q 6 3

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ Q 9 8 6
♦ A 7 2
♣ 10 9

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Four of
Debate will always rage over what were the best years of bridge. In our opinion, the Golden Age was in the 1930s, when the likes of Ely Culbertson, David Burnstine, Howard Schenken, Oswald Jacoby, Helen Sobel, Hal Sims in the U.S., Edward Rayne, Maurice Harrison-Gray, Leslie Dodds, Adam Meredith in Britain, and Pierre Albarran in France were their magic over the green baize. Among our favorites from that time is a hand played in 1937 by a relative unknown, Lee

Langdon of New York. If the bidding looks a little strange, in those days it was fashionable to start with stronger rather than longer suits first, and responders bid their higher-ranking four-card suits in preference to a lower-ranking suit if they intended making more than one bid. The final contract of four spades was a considerable stretch. It looked as if the game was doomed for sure when West got off to a diamond lead. However, declarer played as if all the cards were in plain sight.

Declarer won the opening lead and ran the ten of clubs successfully. The club finesse was repeated, and the ace of trumps was cashed as a precaution against anyone ruffing a club with a low trump. A diamond was discarded from the closed hand on the ace of clubs and, when the king dropped, light appeared at the end of the tunnel. Declarer led dummy's high club and stuffed the last diamond from the closed hand. When West ruffed with the king, all that remained was a mop-up operation. The defenders could collect their two heart tricks, but sooner or later declarer would gain the lead to draw the last trump and claim 10 tricks.

Doubts plague Agassi after loss to Courier

PARIS (Agencies) — Andre Agassi was supposed to be the leader of a new and impressive generation of American tennis players.

But, instead, his third loss in as many Grand Slam Finals has left him riddled with self-doubt.

"Who knows how many shots you have at a Grand Slam," said Agassi after watching another of his generation, Jim Courier, receive the French Open winner's trophy at Roland Garros.

"It is rare when somebody gets to experience that moment in time. As far as my career is concerned, this is the most disappointing moment of my life," added Agassi, close to tears.

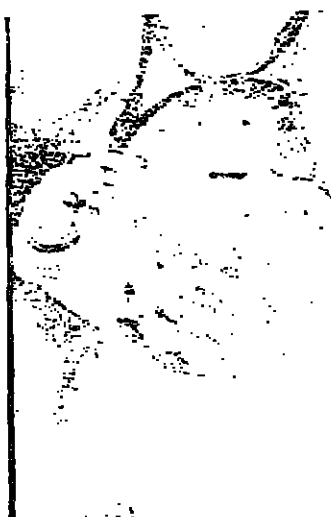
The 21-year-old Agassi had played superbly throughout the Roland Garros fortnight, knocking out world number two Boris Becker in the semifinals, to reach the final for the second year running.

But, as in Paris last year and the U.S. Open in September, he fell at the fast hurdle, playing an error-ridden game to lose 3-6 6-4 2-6 6-1 6-4 to Courier.

The ninth-seeded Courier, who also nudged Agassi out of fourth place in the world rankings with his victory, was, like Andres Gomez last year and champion Pete Sampras at Flushing Meadows, playing his first Grand Slam final.

His coach, Jose Higueras, says Courier won't stop now.

"He's a very dedicated worker," Higueras said. "He's not satisfied with being no. 1 or winning the French Open. He wants



Jim Courier

to do better than that." Courier plays a blunt style of tennis, reliant almost totally on brute power, and he can be blunt off the court, too.

When a reporter asked how Courier would prepare for the start of Wimbledon later this month, the red-haired Floridian replied:

"That's the dumbest question in the world. Don't spoil my day."

Courier was born in Sanford, Florida, son of a sales executive. At 13, he decided to make tennis, not baseball, his vocation.

"That was a dumb choice in hindsight," he once said. "I could be making 3 million dollars a year — guaranteed — if I was just batting .280. I was kind of stu-



Andre Agassi

pid." He, Agassi and women's champion Monica Seles all attended Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy in Bradenton, Florida. But Courier decided the wasn't getting the deserved degree of attention and broke with Bollettieri.

Did he feel a sense of revenge after beating Agassi?

"Not at all," Courier said. "That time passed a long time ago."

Agassi concurred.

"There were just two professionals out there doing their best. That's as far as it goes," he said.

But the irony of the French Open in recent years is that its surprise winners have then faded fast, throwing a cloud of doubt

over the value of the clay court tournament as an accurate reflection of the state of world tennis.

Michael Chang, another of Agassi's American contemporaries, won the 1989 French title in his first Grand Slam final.

Though he has reached the quarter-finals twice since and helped the American squad to win the Davis Cup last year, Chang has not had a particularly brilliant run and won only one title, the Canadian Open, in 1990.

Gomez's star was extremely brief. After beating Agassi in four sets at last year's French Open, the Ecuadorian shrimp farmer slumped so badly he decided not to come back to defend the title this year.

In the 1980s, players such as Bjorn Borg, Ivan Lendl and Mats Wilander were crowned French champions, accurately reflecting their achievements elsewhere.

Faster balls and, this year, harder courts have changed the nature of the tournament, the only Grand Slam event played on clay.

Agassi's mental anguish, magnified by having to cope with two rain breaks in the second set, contributed largely to his defeat.

His only consolation is that his triumphant opponent, who like Agassi and women's champion Monica Seles is a product of the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida, still believes in his compatriot.

"He will have his day, there is no doubt it," said Courier. "He is too good a player to be denied in his whole career."

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Roma wins Italian Cup

GENOA, Italy (R) — Roma lifted the Italian Cup for the seventh time Sunday when they drew 1-1 with Sampdoria in the second leg of the final to win 4-2 on aggregate.

Roma went ahead 10 minutes into the second half from a Rudi Voeller penalty after defender Moreno Mannini handled.

Sampdoria's equaliser came in the 75th minute when a shot inside the area from Brazilian Cerezo was deflected by his Roma compatriot Aldair into his own net.

The win gave Roma a place in next season's European Cup winner's cup.

Atletico Madrid humiliated

Meanwhile in Madrid, second-placed Atletico Madrid suffered a humiliating 3-1 away defeat to lowly Espanol, Barcelona's second team, on the last day of the Spanish soccer season Sunday.

Espanol saw any threat of relegation disappear after the win, which came through two goals from Javier Escaich and another from Cesar Mendiondo. Juan Vizzaino replied for Atletico.

Fourth-placed Osasuna and fifth-placed Sporting Gijon were among four teams who qualified for next year's UEFA Cup.

Both won 1-0 away, with Luis Enrique, tipped to join Real Madrid next season, scoring Sporting's winner at Valencia after 23 minutes.

Osasuna defeated Real Betis through Angel Merino in the 46th minute.

Former champions Real Madrid, also in the UEFA Cup, took a measure of revenge Saturday when they beat Barcelona, who stripped them of

the title, 1-0.

Real Madrid also had the league's top scorer in Emilio Butragueno, with 19 goals, two more than his nearest rival, Real Sociedad's Irish international John Aldridge.

Furthermore Yugoslav international defender Predrag Spasic is set to join Spanish first division side Osasuna later this month after just one season with Real Madrid, Osasuna officials said Sunday.

PSV favourites for Dutch title

In Amsterdam, PSV Eindhoven were hammered 4-1 Sunday by Groningen, Henrie Meyer scoring a hat-trick, but remain favourites for the Dutch title as second placed Ajax Amsterdam lost 1-0 at lowly SVV Schiedam.

With only one game to go, PSV and Ajax are level on points with PSV's goal difference advantage narrowed to just two.

Both sides are at home next weekend when PSV have the marginally easier task. They host ninth-placed Volendam while reigning champions Ajax entertain Vitesse Arnhem who are fifth.

Third placed Groningen overwhelmed PSV who sorely missed injured Dutch international goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen.

Yugoslav striker Milko Djurovski was also on target for Groningen while PSV's long reply came from the prolific Brazilian Romario.

PSV coach Bobby Robson, the former England manager, said: "They took their chances. We had one or two which we didn't take. But we're still alive."

Triple Crown was a wild one

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a wild and wacky Triple Crown.

Critics of medication in racing like to say a horse who runs on the Diuretic Lasix cannot win the Belmont Stakes, where it is not allowed.

Hansel did it. Disciples of the Dosage Index, a complicated formula in which stamina is judged on breeding, contended a horse outside formula guidelines could not win the Kentucky Derby.

Strike The Gold did it. Hansel was out of sight when Strike The Gold won the Derby, and Strike The Gold was nowhere near Preakness winner Hansel.

At the end of the Belmont, though, Hansel was a head in front of hard-charging Strike The Gold in the closest finish since Affirmed beat Alydar to win the Triple Crown in 1978.

It also was a golden head. The victory earned Hansel \$1 million for the most points earned in the Triple Crown races. Hansel had 20 points to Strike The Gold's 15.

"Hansel was in the race all the way," said Nick Zito, Strike The Gold's trainer. "We were dead last. We were coming from the moon."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 11, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now you have an excellent day to produce fine result of a constructive nature that are important to you and which you could not seem to get into motion these last several days. Go forward.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is certainly your day to do pretty much whatever you please that can be helpful to you for a longtime to come and which makes some desirable doors open for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you find it imperative to get the backing of an older person who understands your position and who has it in his/her power to be of great help to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you would like to do that means contacting friends you have known for a considerable length of time is good so see and discuss ideas with them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you have some means by which to please an official or higher up, this is the time to do it and get his support, so desirable.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Communication with that person who can help you to take that trip to expand mentally, educational-wise and you make this a very profitable day.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are now able to rely upon that hunch how to settle a matter

from the past that has been on your mind bugging you for sometime as listen.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can now solve and settle that question that has on the minds of you and your partner for sometime and arrive at the right answer you seek.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) That job have been taking your time about completing can be finished very satisfactorily now so waste no more time and get it done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever puts you on is just great now to so be alert to any sort of happiness coming your way and enjoy it to the fullest for it should be good for you.

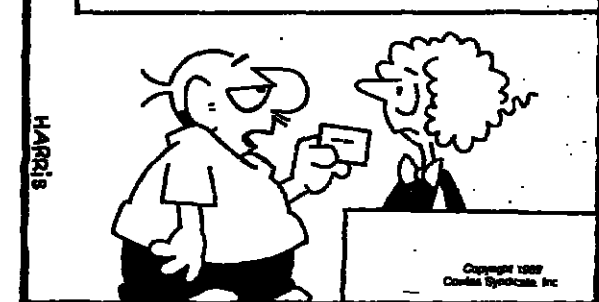
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a point to open up some new ways to get more accord with those to whom you are basically attached and whose approval is required now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are able to dislodge and shatter now making appointments, seeing companions, doing errands, getting supplies, making sales.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your time to think about how much money you have and how you can have a greater amount of income and for devising ways to improve your property.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

Lost + Found



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOKTE

SNAIE

GYNULS

POLEEP

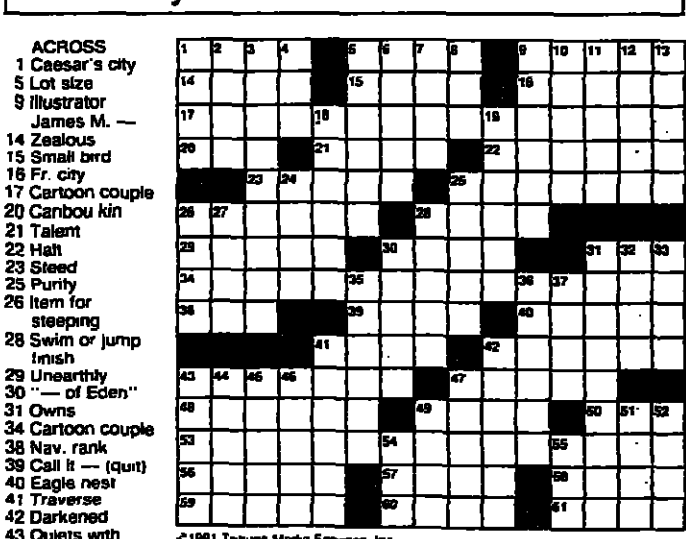
Answer here: &

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JEWEL CRAZE PITIED BARREN

Answer: That fashion plate constituted a credit to her husband, but also this—A DEBT

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. City, 2. Lot size, 3. Illustration, 4. James M., 5. Small bird, 6. Fr. city, 7. Cartoon couple, 8. Caribou kin, 9. Talent, 10. Halt, 11. Stead, 12. Purity, 13. Item for steeping, 14. Swim or jump, 15. Unearthly, 16. "Of Eden", 17. Owns, 18. Cartoon couple, 19. Nav. rank, 20. Call it — (quit), 21. Eagle nest, 22. Traverse, 23. Darkened, 24. Quits with drugs, 25. Move like a dervish, 26. Chalk remover, 27. Hot or county, 28. Resident of, 29. Cartouche, 30. More ingrid, 31. Sed, 32. Ringer, 33. Food fish, 34. Traverse, 35. Chi-chi, 36. Ethnic group, 37. Elipse, 38. Dairy workers, 39. Part of speech, 40. Sun shield, 41. Occupation, 42. Lease, 43. Finalize, 44. Small bloom, 45. Zodiac sign, 46. Veep Barkley, 47. Actress Sharon, 48. Quivered, 49. Golf club, 50. In the manner of, 51. Fall to one side, 52. Squirming, 53. In the manner of, 54. Pro league

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1991 7

U.S. remains world's biggest debtor despite new calculations

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is still the world's biggest debtor nation, but it's not nearly as deep in the red as first thought, new figures released by the U.S. Commerce Department on Sunday show.

The figures, which attempt to value the United States' overseas assets at current prices rather than at the prices at which they were bought, show the United States anywhere from about \$200 billion to more than \$380 billion better off in 1989 than originally reported.

But the United States was still in the red that year, the latest for which statistics are available, by hundreds of billions of dollars.

Right-wing economists have long argued that the Commerce Department's old calculation of the United States' net international investment position

painted an excessively gloomy picture.

That is because those calculations valued U.S. overseas assets at the price at which they were bought, usually years ago, and not at the much higher price they would fetch now.

According to the old calculations, the United States became a debtor nation as far back as 1984 and was in the red in 1989 by \$663.75 billion.

Responding to such criticism, the Commerce Department has come up with two alternative methods of measuring the U.S. net international investment position.

The first values overseas assets such as factories and land at the price it would cost to replace them. That calculation shows the United States became a debtor

nation in 1986 and was in the red in 1989 by \$463.96 billion.

The other measurement values U.S. investments in overseas companies at prices based on those prevailing in foreign stock markets. Under that method, the United States did not become a debtor nation until 1987 and was in the hole by \$281.44 billion in 1989.

"It's (the trend's) the same story, lagged a couple of years," said Mr. Michael Darby, Commerce Department undersecretary. "Of course, the levels make a difference."

He said the new data show that foreigners who are now buying factories, equipment and land in the United States are just "trying to catch up" with the United States, which has been doing the same for years.

Prominent banker recommends removing barriers between typified Jordanian banks

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times



Jawad Hadid

AMMAN — Through modern and technically-advanced legislation, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the commercial and investment banks and other financial companies in the Kingdom should move to introduce a new form of institutions in Jordan, known internationally as "universal banks," a prominent financier told a group of bankers, economists and government officials Saturday evening.

Lecturing at the Association of Banks in Jordan, Mr. Jawad Hadid, general manager of Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Jordan, explained that the term "universal bank" refers to a bank whose services are so wide-ranging and comprehensive that it encompasses the now separated functions of commercial banks, investment banks, financial companies and specialised credit institutions.

Mr. Hadid reviewed the experiences of the United States and Europe noting that the Americans are now trying to reform their banking system after realising the failure of having separated or restricted the banking system in the late 20s and early 30s after the Great Depression.

The American approach has led banks to lend to Third World countries, which are now facing difficulties in repaying, or to lend to certain energy and real estate sectors which periodically plunged into recessions.

The Europeans, Mr. Hadid added, were successful having maintained throughout the years the whole financial services of a bank as one function despite the emergence of merchant banks. The lecturer described these banks as being mostly family-owned (Jewish) and highly specialised in trading commercial papers without much interference from the monetary authorities. These merchant banks have developed into acceptance houses at present, he noted.

Mr. Hadid classified the financial set up in Jordan into five categories:

First, he pointed out, Jordanian banks were established after the British clearing bank's example which attract public deposits and invest them again in various economic sectors. The investments were mostly in the form of overdrafts or advances under current account which often turned into permanent loans over time.

due to the inability of borrowers to settle the outstanding credits when requested.

These banks, called commercial banks, branched into the Kingdom and met the needs of the country until mid 70s when the acceleration of economic activities necessitated developing the financial sector from a "cash market", exercised by the commercial banks, to a "capital market" which was entrusted to investment banks and financial companies.

Given the role of formulating a capital market through issuing, underwriting and marketing securities, bonds and equities, the investment banks and financial companies proceeded into the new era of financial services in

Jordan by also granting medium and long-term credit extensions, exceeding five years and up to 15 years, compared to the short term operations of commercial banks whose deposits and loans are usually of one-year tenor and mostly cover import businesses on the lending part.

The lecturer said that the second category of investment banks and financial companies was however constrained by the interest rate ceiling of the past years, the income tax structure, and other limitations which hindered the investment banks and companies from advancing into areas of pricing share offerings and managing funds on behalf of customers in addition to the other services, such as syndicated loans, which were taken previously by commercial banks.

Mr. Hadid also cited the general immaturity of the economic climate in Jordan and consequently the rigidity of regulations and guidelines governing various operations as a factor which held back the development of a capital market effectively.

Moreover, the restrictions on accepting deposits and the level of obligatory reserves requested by the Central Bank, along with other drawbacks, pressured these institutions to venture into lending to risky projects and, later, into slowly entering the areas of commercial banking without having the financial resources enjoyed by it.

Over the years, Mr. Hadid continued, the investment banks and companies were repeatedly requesting the lifting of more barriers separating them from commercial banking in order to improve their operations.

The third category, according to the lecturer, was the Housing Bank which he compared to the U.S. thrifts or savings and loans institutions.

He said the bank was very successful in attracting deposits from a large base that extended to remote villages and desert towns in as much as it was successful in financing house building for limited-income citizens.

However, the Housing Bank managed to escape the trap of interest rates and the tenor problem of short-term deposits and long-term lending by branching out its activities to all areas related to real estate, such as financing imports of building materials and other construction projects alongside the commercial banks.

Mr. Hadid named the Islamic banks as being the fourth category and said that they were the closest to the "universal bank" ideology, except for the element of interest which makes the difference. He noted that Islamic banks tie commercial banking and investment banking in a unique form and that their operations include aspects of a mutual fund scheme.

But the ABC general manager cautioned that Islamic banks face the problem of finding a "lender of last resort" — which is usually the central bank of a country —

due to the interest factor involved which also affects the "placements" of the huge liquidity usually kept by such banks to meet unforeseen developments.

The fifth banking category in Jordan, according to Mr. Hadid, were the specialised credit institutions which he described as being instrumental for any country or government although they carry major risks having to finance a specific economic sector regardless of its potential, profitability or prospects.

Summarising his lecture, Mr. Hadid said that the whole world was moving towards adopting the concept of "universal banks" being pushed to that goal by the U.S. experience and the technological advancements in the field of communication.

Furthermore, he explained, "universal banks" minimise risks in all areas and boost the credibility of such institutions. He added that "universal banks" enjoy highest credit ratings in the world.

Mr. Hadid concluded by urging the Central Bank to focus, in its drive for banking reform, on lifting all barriers between the functions of all kinds of banks and financial companies. He also called on the various financial entities to merge, suggesting having a separate investment arm and another commercial arm with highly qualified experts, at the senior and junior levels at each one of them, termed by Mr. Hadid as "supermarket banks."

Algeria, Occidental sign oil exploration agreement

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria signed an oil exploration contract Sunday with Occidental Petroleum Corp. of the United States.

Under the contract, the Los Angeles-based company will invest at least \$32 million in prospecting for oil in an area of 23,000 square kilometres near Hassi R'Mel, in the Sahara, the Algerian state oil company Sonatrach said in a statement.

Under the five-year agreement, Occidental pledged to sink 10 exploration wells and carry out detailed seismic surveys over a distance of 1,000 kilometres and other surveys extending beyond 5,000 kilometres.

Sonatrach, for its part, agreed to carry out gas exploration in the same area.

Sonatrach Director Abdulkar Bouhafsa said during the signing ceremony it was Algeria's first exploration agreement with

Occidental Petroleum.

"The choice of the bloc is also important. These blocs are sited in a prospecting zone close to existing oil facilities which will help speed up the development of finds," he said.

Terms of the agreement were kept secret but the Sonatrach director said production would be shared.

Since 1986, Algeria has sought to attract foreign companies to carry out exploration to increase its oil and gas reserves on which most of its wealth depends.

It has subsequently signed several exploration contracts covering more than 75,000 square kilometres, notably with Spanish, French and Italian companies and one other American firm, Anadarko, in 1989.

Under those contracts, about \$500 million is being invested in some 50 exploration wells.

Two Gulf Arab cement companies to merge

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — A joint Saudi-Bahraini cement company and a Saudi Arabian firm are to merge.

The Damman-based Saudi Cement Company Limited (SCCL) said it would merge with the Saudi Bahraini Cement Company (SBCC) following agreement by their shareholders.

The new company will be able to produce 10,700 tonnes of cement per day.

SCCL public affairs representative, Mr. Youssef Muaided, told Reuters the plan had received initial agreement from the Saudi Arabian ministry of commerce.

"Final arrangements to complete the merger process are now being made with the commerce and industry ministries," a statement from SCCL said.

Established in 1980, SBCC is a joint stock company with shareholders from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain which manufactures cement and imports raw materials.

SBCC said it made a net profit of 74.25 million riyals (\$19.8 million) in calendar 1990 while SCCL, established in 1955, said it posted a 70.68 million riyal (\$18.84 million) net profit during the same period.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply lower with investors scared off by New York's weakness on Friday and the soft yen and bond prices. The Nikkei average fell 436.7 to 24,598.38.

SYDNEY — The Australian market was closed to mark Queen Elizabeth's birthday.

HONG KONG — Stocks finished weaker but off lows with the blue-chip Hang Seng index down 16.58 at 3,621.19.

SINGAPORE — The market closed weak with widespread falls on bearish sentiment. The Straits Times industrial index fell 20.56 points to close at 1,529.62.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed after heavy monsoon rains paralysed the city.

FRANKFURT — The 30-share DAX index fell 4.72 points to end at 1,704.92 after losses on Wall Street on Friday and in Tokyo on Monday.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower in lacklustre trading. The SPI index ended six points down at 1,114.8.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index finished 6.26 points down at 1,846.25, its first close below the psychological threshold of 1,850 since May 30.

LONDON — News of the biggest fall in U.K. pay deals in more than a decade sparked talk of another cut in interest rates but the market closed off the day's highs. The FTSE index ended 5.6 points up at 2,511.9.

NEW YORK — New York's Gulf war victory parade distracted traders and kept volume low. At 1605 GMT the Dow average was up 1.12 points to 2,977.86.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.684	.686
Sterling Pound	1.1418	1.1475
Deutsche Mark	.3854	.3875
Swiss Franc	.4500	.4523
French Franc	.1138	.1144
Japanese Yen*	.4869	.4893
Dutch Guilder	.3423	.3440
Swedish Krona	.1076	.1081
Italian Lira*	.0520	.0523
Belgian Franc	.01674	.01683

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6690/6700	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1495/1500	Canadian dollar
	1.7700/10	Deutschemarks
	1.9915/25	Dutch guilders
	1.5130/40	Swiss francs
	36.38/42	Belgian francs
	5.9925/75	French francs
	1312/1313	Italian lire
	141.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.3500/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8930/80	Norwegian crowns
	6.7875/25	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.00/370.50	U.S. dollars

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Madonna & Warren Betty
★ **DICK TRACY**

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOU

LORENZO LAMAS
in
SNAKE EATER

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Ahmad Zaki & Hala Sudki
in
THE ESCAPE
(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Israel seeks \$500m IMF loan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will turn to the International Monetary Fund for the first time in 13 years, seeking a loan of up to \$500 million because of losses caused by the Gulf war, the central bank said Monday.

The statement by Mr. Amnon Yaacobi, spokesman for the Bank of Israel (BOI), followed bank estimates that Israel lost \$700 million in the crisis, mostly through the collapse of tourism, lower exports and higher oil prices.

Israel wants a compensatory financing facility loan, which is not conditional on following IMF directives. It would be a five-year loan with a three-year grace period.

The country is struggling to finance the absorption of a wave of Soviet immigrants and officials say it will need to borrow billions of dollars abroad in coming years.

A central bank source said the IMF had created a fund for Middle East countries hurt by the Gulf crisis, with a ceiling set at

\$500 million for Israel.

The Israeli request will coincide with the arrival next month of an IMF delegation for its annual appraisal of the country.

"The IMF inspection of the loan request is technical. I expect they will approve the loan, as Israel's balance of payments is basically sound," the source said.

Israel's last IMF loan was taken out in 1978 after an export drop. Abstaining from IMF loans has enabled it to ignore recommendations by the fund for a tighter

budget and more flexible foreign currency system.

The BOI said Israel had not borrowed from the IMF in the last decade because its foreign currency reserves and economic situation did not justify it.

According to the BOI, Israel will be free to use the loan in any way it chooses.

Last month the government appointed Mr. Jacob Frenkel, the IMF's chief economist, as governor of the BOI. He will take over in August.

Tehran plans orders worth billions of marks in Germany

BONN (R) — Iran intends to place orders worth billions of marks with German firms. Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann said following a week-long visit by Iranian Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hussein Mahloujchi.

One orders for about 600 million marks (\$345 million) has been awarded to trading house Kloeckner and Co. A.G., owned by Viag A.G., the daily newspaper Die Welt has said.

A spokesman for Kloeckner would neither deny nor confirm

the report as the company normally first announces such orders when they have taken effect. But he said Kloeckner had had good relations with Iran for decades.

A spokesman for the economics ministry confirmed a report by the Iranian news agency IRNA that Iran had signed 12 memorandums of understanding with various German firms for projects in Iran. He declined to name the firms.

During his visit to Germany the Iranian minister discussed specific investment projects with many companies, including Siemens A.G., Thyssen A.G. and Kloeckner.

The statement from Mr. Moellmann also said Iran intended to place an order worth between one and two billion marks (\$700 million and \$1.2 billion) with east German firm Takraf of Leipzig for port facilities and a large iron ore transshipment facility in Iran's free-trade Qeshm Island free zone.

Mr. Moellmann added the orders were a key part of Iran's 1990-94 economic plan to strengthen and broaden its mining industry to boost exports of iron ore, coal, copper, manganese, zinc and lead-concentrates, and industrial minerals.

Cigarette sales hit new high in Japan

TOKYO (R) — Anti-smoking campaigners, on the offensive around the world, seem to be making no headway in Japan, according to figures showing record cigarette sales in the past 12 months.

Total sales rose 2.6 per cent to 322 billion units in the year to March 1991, the Tobacco Institute of Japan said.

Sales of foreign brands, mostly American, jumped 10.9 per cent to 51.1 billion units in 1990/91 and now account for 15 per cent of the Japanese market.

The institute attributed the rise in sales to an increase in the adult population, stable prices and the introduction of new brands catering to Japanese smokers' tastes.

Anti-smoking campaigns would not affect cigarette consumption, an institute spokesman said.

"Smoking is so deeply rooted in the daily life of many Japanese that cigarette consumption is unlikely to be cut easily," he said.

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AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The American Community School announces a new programme for 4 and 5 year olds for the 1991/92 school year.

Classes will be five days per week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

A reduced tuition and capital assessment rate will apply. Bus transportation is available for an additional fee.

Please contact ACS at 813944/6 for additional information.

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INTENSIVE COURSE IN MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on June 29, and will last for 8 weeks. The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

De Klerk says South African trade with Africa set to boom

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk said after a ground-breaking visit to Kenya that African resistance to trade with South Africa was crumbling as fast as apartheid.

"It's like a dam wall bursting. If we can bring a successful visit to two more important countries in Africa we will have turned things around," he told reporters.

Speaking Sunday as his plane flew south over the Indian Ocean to skirt Tanzania, which denies overflight rights to South Africa, De Klerk declined to specify what countries he hoped to visit next.

But Foreign Minister Pik Botha said on Kenyan Television that De Klerk might go to Nigeria later this year.

Mineral and Energy Minister George Bartlett told Reuters during the flight that Kenyan officials promised during talks in Nairobi to lift a ban on South African tenders for industrial contracts within weeks.

Trade and Industry Minister Org Marais said South Africa could undercut the West and even Pacific suppliers with many products more suited to Africa.

"For our manufacturing indus-

try, Africa is the ideal market," he said.

De Klerk appeared to hint at further travels in Africa this year when he visited a game park straddling the equator at Nanyuki and said: "The equator is no longer the dividing line of Africa for South Africa."

President Daniel Arap Moi invited De Klerk to Kenya in recognition of his efforts to dismantle apartheid and his promise to negotiate with black leaders on a transition from white rule to democracy.

De Klerk had previously visited eight other African countries, but government sources said he regarded the two-day trip to Kenya, the first by a South African leader since 1948, as the most important so far.

On Monday, he was due to go to the small state of Swaziland for the first time and have talks with King Mswati. The kingdom, bordered on three sides by South Africa, depends heavily on its big neighbour for its economic existence.

Moi and De Klerk met for three hours Saturday and again Sunday.

Moi hailed De Klerk at a banquet for his "bold decision of initiating a process of dismantling apartheid in South Africa."

Aides and cabinet ministers travelling with De Klerk were ecstatic about the progress they said was made.

Botha said the talks opened the way for a major increase in trade within Africa, where South Africa dominates the sub-Saharan economy.

South Africa's 1990 gross domestic product of \$120 billion almost equalled the total of \$130 billion GDP of the remaining 39 countries of the sub-Saharan continent, he said.

"What we are doing now is peanuts... there is potential for a massive increase in trade," Botha said.

"As long as apartheid was there, it was not reasonably possible for any African country to support through trade the government that was oppressing their own African brothers."

Now, with the last apartheid laws set for repeal by the end of June, trade could multiply tenfold from the present bilateral level of about \$12 billion a year,



F.W. de Klerk

he said. Marais said South Africa and Kenya were close to an agreement on tourism and could cooperate on technology, minerals prospecting, raw material conversion and agriculture.

"The government is just opening the channels for trade," he said. "After that it is up to the private sector and they are already active."

Senate leaders warn Bush about rushing arms treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate leaders say President George Bush should not rush to complete a strategic arms agreement ahead of a summer summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

"I don't think we ought to try to meet any artificial deadlines," Senate minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas said Sunday.

Senator Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed concern that arms control negotiators will "end up making some mistakes" if they speed a pact in time for the as-yet unannounced Moscow summit.

"I'd rather see them go ahead with the summit without rushing the negotiators," Nunn said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

Sen. Bill Bradley charged that Gorbachev was trying "a new form of nuclear blackmail" by warning that failure to help the Soviet Union could jeopardize world peace.

"I don't think that we should be blackmailed by the threat," Bradley, a relentless critic of U.S. aid for the Soviets, said on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley."

The White House and Kremlin have said Bush and Gorbachev were considering a summit before the world's seven largest industrialised nations gather for their annual economic summit in London July 15-17. Gorbachev is expected to go to London to plead for Western help, as he did in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech last week in Oslo.

The two superpowers are still struggling to finish work on the pact to reduce their long-range nuclear arsenals by 30 per cent. A U.S. official said privately Saturday that a summit "won't happen in June and it may not happen in July."

The differences include how much data the two superpowers will exchange on missile flight tests and whether warheads removed from multiple-warhead launchers can be placed on other missiles.

Dole and Nunn both said there was plenty for Bush and Gorbachev to talk about without signing START, including a conventional arms pact and the Kremlin's need for help.

Meanwhile, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat, said on the Brinkley

show that the Soviets should be given most-favoured-nation trade status to spur "pure capitalist transactions" between the two superpowers.

Bradley replied: "No president, no chancellor of West Germany, no president of France can tell business people to invest in the Soviet Union in order to lose money. The Soviet Union has to make the changes domestically that will attract that capital."

Bradley said Gorbachev had refused to reduce defence expenditures or "take even modest steps toward a market-oriented economy."

Nunn said any Western help "should come through the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank... that are accustomed to putting conditions on aid."

Nunn said private U.S. enterprise should be encouraged to help the Soviets develop their oil and gas resources and convert their military to peacetime uses.

But he cautioned against making such private deals conditional on the Soviets' ending aid to Cuba or solving internal problems.

Church mediates between students, police in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korean dissidents holed up in Seoul's Roman Catholic cathedral have until Saturday to give themselves up or face an attack on the building by riot police.

A cathedral spokesman said Monday police hoped priests could persuade wanted students and dissidents in the church to surrender before they were forced out.

Security around the Myngdong Cathedral in central Seoul has been tight since police were told Kang Ki-Hoon, vice-president of the nationwide dissident coalition Chaonminyon, had taken shelter there.

Kang, among 55 wanted dissidents, is suspected by police of having forged a suicide note left of Kim Ki-Sol, one of nine people who committed suicide in protest against the fatal police beating of a student in April.

"We will not have riot police storming into the church to drag away students who have come to the church for help," a priest told reporters Monday.

"It does not, however, mean that we are siding with the students. We want them out of here too, but violence is not the answer."

Kang has been in the church compound since May 18, the day of the funeral for Kang Kyung-Dae, who was beaten to death April 26 by riot police using iron pipes.

Riot police have surrounded the cathedral in Seoul's busiest street and several stand guard near the entrance.

Police met cathedral officials inside the church Monday and gave them until Saturday to persuade students and dissidents to give themselves up or be forcibly evicted.

"If nothing happens until Saturday, then we have no choice but to forcefully bring them out," a police commander told reporters.

"We have the arrest warrants and we can't wait forever." The government is pulling no punches in cracking down on the student demonstrations which began in late April. Authorities seem positive they have the support of the populace.

"Students made a stupid mistake when they assaulted the prime minister," said a radical student who identified himself only as Cho. "The whole thing was a set-up. Students just fell right into the government's trap."

Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik was pelted with eggs and flour and manhandled for half an hour while visiting a Seoul campus last week.

Cho said those involved in the assault were freshmen and sophomores who were in high school when Chung fired 1,500 members of a teachers' union in 1987.

Last week, South Korea's best-known dissident, Moon Il-Hwan, was arrested for playing a leading role in this year's protests. He was freed from prison last October after having been sentenced to seven years in jail for visiting North Korea in 1989.

Thousands flee as Philippine volcano threatens U.S. base

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines (R) — Thousands of Americans in a huge convoy of cars and buses Monday evacuated a major U.S. air base in the Philippines that a volcano threatens to smother in a torrent of molten rock and boiling mud.

Hundreds more Filipinos were evacuated as Mount Pinatubo spewed out ash, steam and red hot lava in a series of small scale explosions that rocked the long-dormant volcano during the day.

Pinatubo was the second volcano along the Pacific "Rim of Fire" to explode in the past week. In Japan, Mount Unzen erupted a week ago, killing 38 people on Kyushu island, 1,000 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Philippine authorities set up evacuation centres in schools in three adjoining provinces and rushed in extra medical teams and supplies to counter increasing cases of respiratory, skin, eye and stomach infections.

Clouds of ash contaminated rivers around the spluttering volcano, and the state-run Philippine News Agency reported that some evacuation centres had run out of drinking water.

Molten rock, its temperature possibly as high as 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,800 Fahrenheit), threatened to engulf empty farming towns at the foot of the smoke-shrouded mountain, 90 kilometres northwest of Manila.

Health officials said they were distributing food and clothing to more than 15,000 Filipino eva-

cuates, many of them Aeta tribesmen who lived around the foot of the volcano.

Officials at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said flows of red hot rock and mud covered a 12-kilometre radius from the cone of the volcano, which exploded Sunday after lying dormant for 600 years.

No casualties have been reported from Sunday's explosion but the country's chief volcanologist warned a more powerful and destructive eruption was imminent.

"Pinatubo may be gearing up for a bigger eruption. The present lull is deceptive. Stronger eruptions should be expected," Philippine volcanology chief Raymond Puno-bayan said in a television interview Monday.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told local radio the government was studying the possibility of ordering the evacuation of more than 200,000 Filipinos living in Angeles City, adjacent to Clark Air Base, if a bigger eruption takes place.

Thousands of Americans Monday completed their pullout from Clark in a convoy of 6,000 cars and buses.

"They're all gone," a U.S. Air Force spokesman said in an interview. "All of those non-essential personnel should be in Subic Bay naval base by now."

More than 14,500 American servicemen and their dependants were withdrawn from Clark to

the U.S. Subic Bay naval base to the west. More than 1,500 personnel were left to manage and provide security for the base, the spokesman, who declined to be named, said.

A big eruption could bury up to half the base, officials and volcanologists warned.

The Americans, riding in a three kilometre convoy of cars and vans, were being given temporary accommodation at Subic.

Children, clutched pet dogs, and babies clung to scruffy dolls as cars packed with video cameras, household utensils, sleeping bags and luggage set out at dawn Monday, a towering ash cloud spewed out by the volcano visible in the distance.

"Who wants to evacuate? But the danger is there so we have to move out," said U.S. Air Force Sergeant Jim Pakle, driving with his wife and two sons into the giant naval base, 80 kilometres northwest of Manila.

Helicopters flew above the convoy to protect the Americans, who have often been targets in the Philippines of attack by communist guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA).

Some 16,000 of the 40,000 U.S. servicemen and dependants in the Philippines are stationed on or near Clark Air Base, headquarters of the U.S. 13th Air Force.

Aircraft, including C-130 transport planes and helicopters, were flown out of the base as a precaution after the eruption.

Unexpectedly high number of Italians vote in reform ballot

ROME (R) — Italians turned out in unexpectedly high numbers to vote in a two-day referendum ending Monday which is aimed at limiting Mafia-inspired ballot-rigging.

Latest figures show 45.7 per cent of voters went to the polls Sunday, first day of a plebiscite to simplify convoluted election procedures that have been used by the Mafia to influence ballots in the south of the country.

Polls close at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Monday.

To be valid, at least 51 per cent of the 47 million electorate have to vote on the plan, which proposes cutting the number of parliamentary candidates voters can choose from a maximum of four to just one.

Achille Occhetto, head of the former Communist Party backing the referendum, hailed the high turnout as a victory in itself.

Italians traditionally vote in large numbers at elections but have shown growing indifference to plebiscites.

"It already shows a significant victory of the real, buried alternative which had never before come to light like this, breaking omerta (the Mafia law of silence) and the hostility of the old political system," he said.

The referendum's backers have labelled it a vote against the Mafia and part of a wider attempt to clean up and streamline Italy's party politics.

Opponents say the vote is a waste of money and the change would be a violation of voters' rights, arguing Italians would have less power with one vote.

Opinion polls have shown overwhelming support for the reforms. But analysts say opponents of the reform were unlikely to bother to vote.

The project has split the political establishment, including the dominant Christian Democratic Party.

It would force voters to write the surname of their preferred candidates rather than indicate them with a number.

The referendum's organisers say the manipulation of numbers by returning officers is widespread.

The campaign has pitted Christian Democratic deputy Mario Segni, father of the referendum, against the Socialist Party.

The Socialists, the second largest party in the government coalition, strongly oppose the system's reform.

Official figures showed northern Italians turned out in greater numbers than southerners to vote in the referendum. Southern voters are traditionally the ones who use the preference system most.

On Sunday, 37.4 per cent of voters in southern mainland regions had cast a vote compared with 51.3 in the north.

Monsoon toll reaches 47 in Bombay

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The worst monsoon rains in at least four decades flooded one-fourth of Bombay over the weekend, killing at least 47 people as houses and walls collapsed under the torrential downpour.

The deaths brought the death toll to 87 in the summer monsoon that has in the past week swept up India's western coast, Press Trust of India said Monday.

In addition to the deaths reported in Bombay, at least eight

people died in other parts of surrounding Maharashtra state, the news agency said.

Up to 65 centimetres of rain fell Sunday in Bombay, United News of India said, breaking the previous known one-day record of 40 centimetres set on June 19, 1953 during another monsoon.

Trains stopped running, some packed with hundreds of passengers who were stranded for hours in outlying suburbs when the tracks were flooded, Press Trust said.

Indian Express, a national newspaper, reported from Bombay that the tracks were under 55 centimetres of water in some places. Flights in and out of Bombay were canceled or postponed.

Many of the people who died were in shantytowns where crude huts crumpled under the rain and earthen boundary walls collapsed. More than 100,000 people were left homeless, Press Trust said.

Kohl visits former Nazi death camp

BUCHENWALD, Germany (R) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told silently through a political and historical minefield Monday to commemorate victims of Nazi slaughter and Soviet internment at the former Buchenwald concentration camp.

Kohl, whose past visits to World War II memorials have aroused bitter controversy, laid two identical wreaths with the inscription "to the victims of the rule of violence" — a message that appeared to equate Nazi and Soviet rule.

He went first to a giant tower-and-sculpture monument erected by former East Germany's communists to immortalize anti-fascist resistance against Hitler.

Some 56,000 people died in the Nazi concentration camp between 1933 and 1945, when the prisoners freed themselves.

Kohl then trudged grim-faced along a wooded path from which human bones can still be seen to a recently-added wooden cross marked "in honourable memory of the victims of Stalinism."

The simple cross honours some 10,000 Germans believed to have died there between 1945 and 1950.

China steps up attack on Western journalists

BEIJING (R) — China stepped up its attack on foreigners and especially Western journalists Monday, accusing them of fomenting disturbances around the second anniversary this month of an army crackdown on a mass pro-democracy movement.

"Some foreign enemies of Socialist China and a very few of the elite leaders of the turmoil who escaped the country hate the stability, prosperity and development of Beijing and the whole nation," the official People's daily said.

In a signed article titled: "The trees want to be still but the wind does not stop," the Communist Party's newspaper said:

"They are full of anger, full of hate and they are impatient. They thought their chance had come — the coming second anniversary of disturbances in Beijing in the period between the spring and summer of 1989."

Chinese authorities last week banned a lunch meeting of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Beijing with U.S. China scholar Orville Schell as guest speaker, accusing journalists of trying to subvert the Communist state. They banned a club barbecue.

The newspaper specifically attacked Western wire services and other reporters for sending squads of reporters to the university district, which had been a centre of unrest in 1989, during the second anniversary of the crackdown.

It accused Western reporters of fabricating and distorting reports. Foreign students at Beijing University instigated trouble in the anniversary period, disturbing Chinese students, it said.

Trouble-making foreign students were in collusion with reporters, the newspaper said.

"Late at night on June 3, at the very same time the abnormal activities of a very few foreign students were taking place inside the university campus, 30 or 40 foreign reporters gathered outside the college walls," the newspaper said. "This can't have been just a coincidence."

Chinese students jeered police and hurled bottles from dormitory windows at midnight on June 3 and early in the morning of June 4 in a daring protest to mark the anniversary of the suppression by tanks and troops of the student-led movement centred in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, witnesses at the campus said.

COLUMN

Reagan daughter was 'horrified' by his re-election

NEW YORK (R) — Pat Davis, the daughter of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, said she was afraid to vote against her father in 1984 but was "horrified" when he was re-elected. "I didn't have the balls to vote against my father," she said in an interview with Vanity Fair magazine. "But I couldn't vote for him... I was horrified when my father got re-elected... from the homeless to environmental neglect to the rise in racism — if you have an elitist atmosphere, you have a racist atmosphere — I couldn't believe what was going on. What's the matter with this country? Were we blind?" Davis, 38, who was portrayed as the Reagan family embarrassment in former first lady Nancy Reagan's memoir "My Turn," said her own upcoming book will tell the real story, particularly about life with her mother. "I feel sorry for her. She's not a happy woman," Davis says of her mother, in the magazine's July issue, to be on the stands next week. The Vanity Fair article says publishing insiders who have read Davis's book proposal say it includes allegations that Nancy Reagan was cold, tyrannical and even carried on a sexual rivalry with her daughter. But Davis said she was writing her book, which is as yet untitled and due to be published sometime next year, for "a bigger reason than I didn't get along with my family." She said she was writing "because people assume that if they understand the Reagan family, they'll understand what happened in this country."

Woman files for divorce from sex-change husband

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore woman has filed for divorce after discovering on her wedding night that her husband was once a woman, the Straits Times newspaper said. Lim Ying told the high court that Eric Hok Kian Ming, a fork-lift truck driver in his 30s, had a sex-change operation in 1987, the newspaper said. "I was unaware of the fact that he was a she. That was why I went through with the marriage," Lim said. "I knew him only as Eric. I would not have married him if I had known the truth because I want to have children." Singapore is a world centre for sex change operations with four or five carried out every month.

Chinese couple commit suicide in embarrassment

BEIJING (R) — A north China couple committed suicide on their nephew's wedding day after relatives scoffed at the value of their gift to him, a Shanghai newspaper said. Following custom, the couple from Shanxi province wrote in a gift book that they were giving a total of 20 yuan (\$3.70) as a wedding gift, less than half the 45 yuan (\$8.50) the other relatives gave, the Xinmin Evening News, received Monday, said. Unable to bear their relatives' scorn, and worried about future wedding gifts for their other nephews and nieces, husband Yang Baosheng hanged himself after his wife, Qu Jumei, drowned herself in a vat, it said.

Stalin bunker becomes museum

MOSCOW (R) — A top-secret bunker intended to house Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and government ministries during World War II has been opened to the public as a museum, TASS news agency reported. TASS said the bunker, which features a command headquarters 37 metres beneath the surface, was never used by Stalin. It was built in the city of Samara on the Volga as Nazi forces approached Moscow. The headquarters has a large oak table and chairs, military telephones and a vast map showing the positions of Soviet and German forces in October 1941, four months after the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union. Visitors can now see what TASS described as a modest lounge for Stalin's personal use, including the original sofa, writing table, armchair and sink. The bunker has been used as an administrative shelter in case of war or natural disasters in Samara, formerly called Kuibyshev, where top officials, diplomats and the Bolshoi Ballet Company were evacuated during the war. TASS said the bunker, which was equipped with life-support systems and means to counter a chemical attack, was opened to the public to mark the 50th anniversary this month of the Nazi invasion.

Heatwave in Pakistan kills 300

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A searing heatwave roasting Pakistan's southern Sindh province killed at least 200 people Sunday, raising the toll to more than 300, Hyderabad Mayor Aftab Ahmad Sheikh said Monday.

"Hell has opened its door on Sindh. The hell is raining heat on Sindh," Sheikh said in a telephone interview.

Some 70 people died Sunday around Hyderabad, 150 kilometres northeast of Karachi. The mayor said figures had not arrived from remote areas and the toll could rise.

At least 29 deaths were reported from the Sukkur area in northern Sindh, 27 from Nawabshah, 20 from Sanghar and the rest from smaller towns.

Most of the dead were farmers and labourers felled by dehydration while working in their fields or on construction projects, doctors said. Many people have stopped working during the day.

The pre-monsoon heatwave, which began about 10 days ago, has sent temperatures close to the all-time official record of 53 degrees Celsius (127 Fahrenheit) set in Jacobabad on June 12, 1919.

In Sakrand north of Hyderabad the temperature touched an unofficial 52 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) Sunday.

Muslim clerics in Larkana aimed mosque loudspeakers upwards at the weekend to direct their prayers for respite at the sky.

Ice sellers in the town were demanding 12 rupees (50 U.S. cents) a kilo, compared with only two rupees in the cool season.

In Karachi, an agriculture department official said recently sown cotton seeds had been affected because of water evaporation from fields in the heatwave.

Temperatures routinely rise to about 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) before the monsoon begins. The heatwave has been made worse this year by low pressure over Sindh, a spokesman for the meteorological department said.